Franklin D. Cossitt
Claim before the
Southern Claim Commission
Case No. 20459

transcribed
and edited by
Edward C. Thoele
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Preface

I was performing some computer support work at the La Grange Area Historical Society in Illinois, when a high school student who was researching the history of our town's founder, Franklin D. Cossitt, asked me if we had any other sources about his life. I told him we had complete copies of the documents from the case that he had filed with the Southern Commissioners of Claims for compensation for his losses during the Civil War. The depositions, testimony, notes, and lists would help him develop a feeling for the time period and the individuals and their place in the Southern community. He said it was useless to him because he could not read cursive writing.

I had retrieved the images of the documents in the case from the Fold3 web site, a military-oriented version of Ancestry for tracing your ancestors military heritage. I began working to transcribe the information in the 781 individual image files into usable documents. I discovered a few blank images, several duplicated images, original documents, copies of documents, *etc.*

As I read through the writing in the image files, I began to recognize the more common handwriting styles. From a number of transcribed items, I discovered that the collection, as photographed, was not organized in any useful way. Once I built the image descriptions that can be found in Appendix B, this volume began to take form.

This book is not organized sequentially by date, but rather by categories of documents. In particular, exhibit numbers have changed, the claim was submitted to several agencies and modified each time. I have done my best to unravel the identification of each image. I skipped the backside of each document unless it contained a significant bit of additional information.

Any errors in transcription, interpretation, or organization are totally mine. In testimonies, I have expanded some abbreviations because I believe them to be scribal shortcuts, unlikely to have been spoken as the abbreviated form (Gen. to General, Tenn. to Tennessee, *etc.*)

I want to thank my wife for her patient indulgence as I devoted the time necessary to completing this work.

Edward C. Thoele
La Grange Area
Historical Society

Introduction

The Commission

Shortly before the close of the Civil War, in an Act of July 4, 1864, Congress authorized the compensation of loyal citizens for losses suffered during the war. This act only applied to people living in states not in rebellion. Many loyal Union men living in the South clammered for similar rights.

The Southern Claims Commission was established by Congress in 1871 under the Act of March 3, 1871 so that pro-Union Southerners who had lost property to invading Union armies could request compensation. In 1872 a deadline was established for submitting a claim of March 3, 1873. The final date for filing evidence in support of a claim was set as March 10, 1879.

Congress initially expected the Commission's duties to last for two years, but they extended its life until 1879 due to the overwhelming number of claims they received. The Commission received 22,298 claims for a total of $60,258,150.44 in damages. The Commissioners of Claims continued to process claims until March of 1880, when they reported the last of the claims to Congress. Of the 22,298 claims filed, only 7,092 satisfied the examination by the Commissioners to yield a total compensation of $4,636,920.69.

Special Commissioners were appointed to take testimony in cities and towns throughout the former Confederate states, so that claimants did not have to travel to Washington, D.C. Each claimant filed a petition and testified before the Special Commissioner, answering a list of fifty-seven to eighty standing questions that the Commission had created.[1] They also were closely cross-examined by the Commissioner to establish both loyalty and the value of the claim.

The claimant could then call witnesses, who also testified before the Special Commissioner. Many claimants also sent notarized letters from acquaintances who were not available to testify.

In order to receive compensation, claimants had to satisfy four general requirements:

- Claimant held United States citizenship
- Claimant resided in a state that had seceded

[1] See Appendix A.

- Claimant could prove his or her loyalty to the United States throughout the Civil War
- United States troops had taken the claimant's goods for official army purposes

Claims for property that had been destroyed or stolen by troops without the benefit of an lawful order by an officer were rejected. This was not considered official army purposes. Trampled crops and fences burned as firewood were not compensated, for example. Claims for some subsistence supplies taken when regular rations were unavailable were approved. The extent to which this was used is shown by approval of claims for tobacco from Atlanta, Georgia. When the rations and supplies ran low, a special order was issued by General Sherman to confiscate all the tobacco in Atlanta, and issue it to make the "army contented, and, as far as possible, to make up to them for their usual rations...."[2] Claims for this tobacco were allowed, although tobacco in general was not a valid claim nor a part of the army's rations..

The Claims Commission consisted of three members, all Northerners, all Republicans, and all appointed by President Grant, see Figure 1. Asa Owen Aldis, a lawyer, was 59 years of age at the time and was a former Supreme Court Justice of Vermont and Consul to Nice, France. He was chosen as Chairman of the Commission. Orange Ferris, a lawyer, was 56 years old and had served as a Congressman from New York from March 4, 1867, to March 3, 1871. James B. Howell was 54 years of age, a former newspaper editor, who had served the remainder of James W. Grimes's term (from January 18, 1870 to March 3, 1871) as a U. S. Senator from Iowa. The Commissioners read each file and made a recommendation to the House of Representatives, who ultimately had the power to grant repayment.

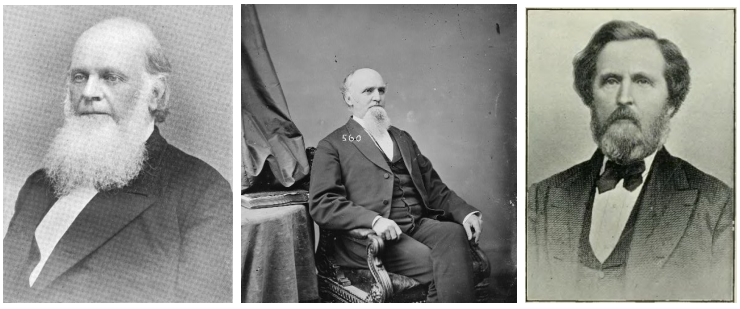

Figure 1: Asa Owen Aldis, Orange Ferriss and James B. Howell

Claims that were filed after the deadline were **Barred**. Any claim in which the claimant failed to meet one of the above requirements was **Disallowed**.

These records, consisting of detailed questionnaires and affidavits from neighbors and friends, provide valuable genealogical information and a wealth of de-

[2] "The Southern Claims Commission: a Postwar Agency in Operation" by Frank Wysor Klingberg in *The Mississippi Valey Historical Review*, Sep. 1945, Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 195-214

tail about the lives of southerners in the 1860's and 1870's. Some claims were filed by former slaves, revealing a new approach to legal rights and the right to property in the Reconstruction Era.[3]

The Man

Franklin Dwight Cossitt (See Figure 2) was born in Granby, Hartford County, Connecticut on the 19th of September, 1821. His grandfather, Asa Cossitt, served in the Revolutionary War and served with George Washington in his retreat from New York. His father, Rana Cossitt, was a merchant in Granby, but died when Franklin was 13 years old.

Around the age of 15, Franklin, in company with his cousin, Frederick H. Cossitt, moved to La Grange, Tennessee, to work for his uncle, George G. Cossitt, in a general store. For six and one-half years, Franklin worked for his uncle for little more than board and clothing. Expecting a co-partnership, Franklin and his uncle could not come to an agreement. They separated and F. D. Cossitt received a final $600 in payment. After purchasing his mother a home in Westfield, Massachusetts, he returned to La Grange, Tennessee, in 1842 to start his own business, also a general store. With letters of credit to merchants in New York from his uncle, he purchased $5,000 worth of goods to stock his store. A slave census of 1850 shows that by that year he had become the owner of 15 slaves, of whom six were under nine years old.

He became an influential land owner, having three large and one small plantation near La Grange and 127 slaves, by his own testimony. Also in his testimony, his land holdings were about 3,800 acres of which 2,200 were cleared and under cultivation, with the remainder being woodland. The plantations were fenced with rail fences at the outbreak of the Civil War.

When the Western wing of the Union Army invaded Tennessee, Mr. Cossitt's visitors included General Grant and his wife, the wife of Governor Louis P. Harvey of Wisconsin, and the wife of Colonel John Mason Loomis. Not all his visitors were so welcome, however. The Army of the West included approximately 25,000 Union troops under the command of General Charles S. Hamilton and General James B. McPherson, who camped on his two largest plantations in the fall of 1862. During the month of November 1862, almost all the corn, sugar, molasses, sweet potatoes, mules, cattle, hogs, and fodder were taken by the troops for use by the army. He was provided with receipts for some of the material taken, but soldiers camping on the farm collected corn from the field, tore down fences, cut down timber, dug up sweet potatoes, and destroyed property without authorization.

Mr. Cossitt's cooperation with the Union army officers created enough discontent among the Secessionists in the area, that his life was in danger should

[3]See "New Freedom, New Law: The Southern Claims Commission and the recognition of Slave Independent Will, Legal Standing, and Rights to Property in the Era of Reconstruction" by F. Elias Boujaoude, his Senior Thesis in the Department of History at Columbia University in the City of New York

the troops leave. On the recommendation of Union officers, like General Sherman, he left Tennesse in April 1863, selling most of his property there and moved to Chicago with his family.

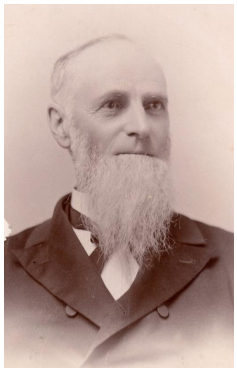

Figure 2: Franklin D. Cossitt

He joined a wholesale grocery business in Chicago, Barret & Cossitt, and, after the death of Mr. Barrett, renamed the business Cossitt & Co., and grew prosperous until the great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed his business. He rebuilt his grocery business and continued in that endeavor until 1875. Offered the opportunity to settle his debts after the fire at 25 cents on the dollar, he refused and repaid all the debts in full.

He bought real estate near Chicago and established the town of Montrose on 80 acres. He then purchased 600 acres and established the village of La Grange, named for his home town in Tennessee, which eventually incorporated as the Illinois village of La Grange in 1879.

The Claim

On February 17, 1873, Franklin D. Cossitt, with the aid of his attorney in Washington, D.C., Richard McAllister, filed his petition with the Southern Claims Commission for Quartermaster and Subsistence Stores in the amount of $31,620.00. Twenty numbered exhibits were filed along the claim, all receipts for stores and subsistence stores taken from his plantations during the months of November and December 1862. A number of additional documents relating to the loyalty of the claimant were also submitted. The claim was assigned number 20459.

In March 1873, Mr. Cossitt requested that the Southern Claims Commission discontinue his claim number 20459, because he had decided to prosecute his claims directly with the Quartermaster General of the United States and the Commissary-General of the United States under the acts of July 4, 1864, and February 28, 1866.

Subsequently, he filed a claim with the Quartermaster General's Office for $23,833.00 for quartermaster stores and with the Office of the Commissary-General for $10,082.00 for subsistence stores. Most of the discrepancy in the totals is the result of the inclusion in the former claim of $2,220.00 worth of dry wood from the fence rails and for 20 acres of standing timber cut down. The decision to refile the claims separately under the earlier acts appears to stem directly from the desire to include these items which had to be excluded from the Southern Claims Commission claim since it constituted "damage or destruction", which was disallowed.

Unfortunately, both the Quartermaster General and the Commissary-General refused to consider the claims because they had already been presented to the Southern Claims Commission. Thus, in May 1873, the claim number 20459 was again taken up by the Commission. Testimony was taken of several important witnesses in Washington, D. C. Documents which had been submitted to prove loyalty to the Union were assigned Exhibit numbers and all previous exhibits numbered 4 through 20 were assigned new Exhibit numbers.

The Commission produced its final report, allowing $14,102.17 for the claim in its report to Congress on December 4, 1876. Congress passed the appropriation to pay the claims of that report on March 3, 1877. About one week later, Mr. Cossitt's attorney requested that his claim be marked "special" and given priority for disbursement of funds. The funds were released to Mr. McAllister within a few days.

This may appear to be a rather insignificant amount for such extensive filings and documentation. The website `https://www.measuringworth.com/dollarvaluetoday` was accessed June 23, 2023, to obtain estimates of the value of the claim and the payment today. The changes in purchasing power and wealth from 1862 to 1876 were not considerable.

The following chart presents the data as of the date checked.

$31,620.00 in 1876	$925,307.26	in purchasing power
	$6,902,576.33	as compensation
	$13,861,311.33	of wealth held.
$14,102.17 in 1876	$412,931.29	in purchasing power
	$3,079,553.21	as compensation
	$6,184,161.36	of wealth held.

The most conservative approach considers only the purchasing power of the final payment in today's dollars to be almost $413,000. Considered as a loss of his personal wealth (regained), the value is over 6 million dollars today.

Chapter 1

Summary Report

1.1 Cover of Report Summary

[This document may be found in Images 2 and 461]

No. 20459
Claim
of Franklin D. Cossitt
of
Fayette Co.
Tennessee
Summary Report
Amount Allowed $ 14,102.17
Submitted to Congress
December 4 1876
by the
Commissioners of Claims
under
Act March 3d, 1871

1.2 Body of Report Summary

[This document may be found in Images 3–13 and 462–470]

No. 20459
The Claim of Franklin D Cossitt of Fayette County, Tennessee
42 items. 1862. Nov. & Dec.
Amount of claims as per statement in petition - hereto annexed in detail -

- Amount Claimed: $ 31,620.00
- Amount Allowed: $ 14,102.17

- Amount Dsiallowed: $ 17,517.83

Mr Cossitt was a native of Connecticut. At the age of fifteen he went to Tenn. He there became a merchant and planter. He owned four plantations, *vis.*, "Myrick", "Urqhart", "Sykes" and "Adams", and 127 slaves.

He never held any civil or military office in the Confederacy and it does not appear that he ever gave any aid or comfort to the Confederacy. In the summer of 1862 he went to Bolivar where Generals Grant and McPherson were camped with their army and told them that the confederate forces did not amount to much and that they would have no difficulty in coming into and taking possession of the country. They had supposed that the confederate force was large. The next day Genl McPherson came to Lagrange and took possession of the country.

In Exhibit No. 2, Genl. McPherson, under date of Nov. 13, 1862, says "Mr Cossitt has rendered good service at different times & deserves compensation for articles taken from him."

Genl. McPherson also under date of Nov. 5, '62 "certifies that Mr. Cossitt has shown himself a good loyal man & had rendered important services to the Federal Cause" &c.

Genl Hamilton, who for 6 weeks in Oct & Nov '62 had his headquarters at his house, says–"I have known Mr. Cossitt since Nov. '62, –have at all times found him a reliable & thoroughly loyal Union man, from whom I have received much useful information at times & have always found his sympathies with the Union Govt. & Armies."–

Genl Hurlbut, under date of Nov. 18.'62 says–"Mr. Cossitt has been known to me since June last as a reliable Union man,–I became acquainted with him at LaGrange on the first occupation of that place by Union troops. I have reason to believe that he has always been loyal to the Govt & have received from him valuable information."

Genl Hurlbut was examined orally before us and his evidence is very full and satisfactory to prove claimant's loyalty. We deem it sufficient to refer to it. –

Many other papers are filed to show that other officers of our Army in 1862 regarded him as loyal. – He was threatened and molested by the rebels, and in April 1863 was obliged to leave. He went to Chicago where he has since resided. . . .

In regard to the necessity of his leaving Genl Hurlbut says–"his life would not have been worth a straw outside of the range covered by the U.S. Troops."

In June 1862 he was entrusted by Genl Sherman with the charge and repair of trestle work, which service he faithfully performed. See Genl. Sherman's letter. Exhibits 6 & 7. –

Loyalty fully proved. — As to the taking of property. Genl. Hamilton encamped on the Myrick place with a large body of troops in Oct. '62 & staid about 7 weeks.– At the same time Genl. McPherson with a still larger body of troops camped on the Urqhart place.

The first 11 items & the items from 26 to 42 inclusive were all taken from the Myrick place, by the troops of Genl. Hamilton in Nov. 1862.

Items 1 to 11 are shown by the evidence of Mr. Myrick, the superintendent of the Myrick place, also in part by Mr. Cossitt, & by the papers filed in the case which fully corroborate the testimony.

Items 26 to 42 are proved by receipts given at the time and which are proved and filed in the case. But a small part of the property taken from the Myrick place was receipted for.

Exhibit 1 is a statement drawn up by Mr. Cossitt in Nov. '62 from the declarations made by Mr. Myrick at the time. The Myrick place contained about 1000 acres of cultivated land.

1862. 1st to 30th Nov.

1.	10 mules.	1500.–
2.	90,000 lbs fodder	900.–
3.	10 stacks, 15000 lbs hay	150.–
4.	2625 bu. Corn, taken from field	2100.–
5.	1125 bu. Corn, taken from cribs	1125.–
6.	150 bu. sweet potatoes.	150.–
7.	150 fat hogs, 150 lbs ea.	2250.–
8.	17 beef cattle.	714.–
9.	250 lbs brown sugar.	40.–
10.	1/2 bbl. 20 gals molasses.	20.–
11.	100 stock hogs	500.–

[*Above amounts taken by Gen. C. S. Hamilton, U.S. Vols. From Myrick's Place*]

12.	63 stacks, 94500 lbs fodder	945.–
13.	46 stacks, 46000 lbs hay & pea vines.	460.–
14.	7 stacks, 7000 lbs hay & pea vines	70.–
15.	400 acres corn, 10,000 bu.	8000.–
16.	16 mules.	2400.–
17.	150 fat hogs, average 150 lbs.	2250.–
18.	100 stock hogs, average 150 lbs.	500.–
19.	66 cattle, cows & calves, 50 cattle. $2000.00, 10 cows, $300.00, 6 calves, $60.00.	2360.–
20.	25 bu. Corn meal	25.–
21.	2 sacks salt.	20.–
22.	13 bags, 13 bu. Dried peaches	13.–
23.	1200 bu. Sweet potatoes.	1200.–
24.	17 sets gear.	85.–
		$ 27777.–

[*Above was taken from "Urqhart Plantation", by Gen. JB McPherson from 1st to 13 Nov. 1862.* See Exhibit #2]

	Am't bro't forward	27777.–
25.	19 mules.	2850.–
26.	2 loads, 30 bu. Corn	30.–
27.	2 loads, 2000 lbs fodder.	20.–

[*Above taken by Lt. Conynham, Actg. Q. Mr., 16th Iowa Vols., under command Gen. J. McArthur, 6th Divis., Army of Tenn. See Exhibit No 4*]

28.	3 loads, 4500 lbs hay.	45.–
29.	7 loads, 7000 lbs fodder	70.–
30.	8 loads, 200 bu. Corn	200.–

[*Above taken by Capt. E. D. Ostrand, Comdg. Co. "A", 4 Ills. Cavy. See*

Exhibits 5 & 6]

31. 2 loads, 30 bu corn. 30.–

[*Taken by Lieut. Jones QM 16th Wis Vols See Exhibit No. 7]*

32. 255 bu. Corn. 255.–

33. 1600 lbs fodder. 16.–

[*Taken by J. F. Stouffer, wagon master. 2 Iowa Cavy. See Exhibit No. 8.*]

34. 4 loads, 1200 lbs fodder. 12.–

35. 5 loads, 75 bu. Corn. 75.–

[*Taken Nov. 6.7.9.10.&12 1862 by C. S. Williams, Lt. & A.R.Q.Mr. 8th Wis. Vols., Col. J. M. Loomis, Comdg. 2 Brig. 2 Div. Army of Tenn. See Exhibits 9.10.11.12,13 & 14.*]

36. 4 loads, 1200 lbs fodder. 12.–

37. 3 loads, 45 bu. Corn. 45.–

$ 31,437.–

Am't bro't forward ——- $ 31,437.–

38. 300 lbs hay. 3.–

[*Taken Nov. 6, 7 & 10. 1862. by Lt. Spring, Q.Mr, 26th Ills. Infy. Command of Col. J. M. Loomis, 2nd Brig. 2 Div. Army of Tenn. See Exhibits 15, 16 & 17.*]

39. 2 loads, 30 bu. Corn. 30.–

[*Taken by R. Kennedy, Q. Mr. 13 Iowa Infy. As per certificate of Leslie Bassett, 1st Lt. Co. "K", 13th Iowa Infy. See Exhibit No 18.*]

40. 10 loads, 80 bu. Corn. 80.–

41. 2 stacks, 3000 lbs hay. 30.–

[*Taken by Enos P Searls, wagon master, 5th O.V.C. See Exhibit 19*]

42. 1 steer. 40.–

[*Taken by Lt. Joshua Ricketts, Co. "C", Eng. Reg. Of the West. See Exhibit No 20.*]

$ 31,620.–

The other items from the Urqhart place are proved and therefore are allowed, except item 22 & a part of No. 23 of which the estimate is too large.– The prices of pork and beef were very low in Nov. '62.– We allow as follows:–

1,16,25	for mules	$ 4000.00 & reject the rest.
2	For fodder	562.50 & reject the rest.
3	For hay	105.00 & reject the rest.
4	2625 bus corn in field	1050.00 & reject the rest.
5	1125 bus corn in cribs	562.50 & reject the rest.
6	150 bus potatoes	75.00 & reject the rest.
7	150 fat hogs	750.00 & reject the rest.
8	17 Beeves	340.00 & reject the rest.
9	250 lbs sugar	17.00 & reject the rest.
10	1/2 bbl molasses	10.00 & reject the rest.
11	100 stock hogs	200.00 & reject the rest.
12	63 stack of fodder	309.37 & reject the rest.
13	46 stacks of hay & pea vines	140.00 & reject the rest.
14	7 stacks of hay	
15	400 acres of standing corn	3200.00 & reject the rest.
16	Included in item 1	
17	150 fat hogs (Urqhart)	750.00 & reject the rest.
18	100 stock hogs (Urqhart)	200.00 & reject the rest.
19	66 head of cattle	980.00 & reject the rest.
20	25 bus corn meal	25.00 & reject the rest.
21	2 sacks salt	10.00 & reject the rest.
22	13 bags dried peaches	
23	1200 bus sweet potatoes	300.00 & reject the rest.
24	17 Setts of Gear	85.00 & reject the rest.
25	Included in item 1	
26	30 bus corn	15.00 & reject the rest.
27,28,29	Hay & fodder (receipts)	25.20 & reject the rest.
30,31,32	Corn as per receipts	202.50 & reject the rest.
33,34	Fodder	21.00 & reject the rest.
35	Corn	37.50 & reject the rest.
36,37,38	Hay, corn, fodder as per receipts	33.60 & reject the rest.
39,40	Corn as per receipts	55.00 & reject the rest.
41	Hay	21.00 & reject the rest.
42	A steer	20.00 & reject the rest.
		$ 14,102.17

Making in all fourteen thousand one hundred and two dollars and seventeen cents - and rejecting the rest of the claim.– signed:

A. O. Aldis
J. B. Howell Commissioners of Claims
O. Ferriss

1.3 Commissioners' Comments

On the hearing Col. McAllister of Counsel for Claimant moved that an item for 6375 bushels of corn taken from the field on the Myrick place be added to the petition and claim, as that amount at 25 bushels per acre would be equal to the "255 acres Corn gathered" named in Exhibit No. 1 (2 by Audem) which was filed when the petition was, and is referred to in it. — But many other items in Exhibit 1 are not included in the petitionn, and unless specially named in the petition can not be considered as a part of it. The Exhibit is referred to as proof of the items of claim stated in the petition, but not as being intended to present other claims than those named in the petition. —

Again the claim now is for 6375 bus corn taken from the field, while the Exhibit speaks only of "255 acres corn gathered." — So the "45 acres gathered" agrees exactly with item 5, at 25 bushels per acre. — We have no doubt that the Army took as "much corn from the Myrick place as is charged in items 5 and 6 and in the items from 26 to 41 for which receipts were given and so allow.

For corn in cribs in Nov. '62 we have always allowed 50 cents per bushel, and we do so here though the receipts estimate it at only 25 cents. Mr. Cossitt is entitled to that fair price which in all other cases has been allowed claimants. For corn in the field we allow 40 cents per bushel, about the difference the claimant makes in his charges — The Myrick place contained 1600 acres, of which about 1000 acres were cultivated. The witnesses say there were at least 400 acres gathered by the troops. Exhibit No. 2 (marked 2A by Mr. Audem) is a paper which claimant drew up from a statement made at the time by Gilchrist, the superintendent of the Urqhart place under Myrick, and which he then presented to General McPherson, who then, Nov. 13, 1862, referred it to QuarterMaster Burr for investigation saying -– "Mr. Cossitt has rendered good service at different times and deserves compensation for the articles taken and damage done him." This contemporary claim made and presented at the time and thus certified by General McPherson is entitled to much weight as evidence. It is sustained by the testimony of claimant and of his foreman William Cossitt who had a general supervision of the place tho residing 6 miles off. The other papers strengthen the proof of the claim. We are satisfied that the "400 acres of corn" claimed in Exhibit 2 must have yielded to our troops at least 10,000 strong who were camped on the place for several weeks at least 8000 bus of corn and for hich as taken from the field we allow $3200.00.

The items from 12 to 25 inclusive were all taken from the Urquart place and are all named in Exhibit 2 except the item 25 for 19 mules. As to item 1 for 10 mules taken from the Myrick place it is fully proved by Myrick and Cossitt and is in Exhibit No. 1.—

As to items 16 for 16 mules, and 25 for 19 mules all taken from the Urquhart place: in all 35 mules. There is no proof that these mules were taken from any other place than the Urqhart place. There were mules on the Sykes place, but there is no proof whatever as to their taking. These two items make up 35 mules, and that is just the number mentioned in Exhibit No. 3, the paper given by General McPherson. — In that paper he says – "Mr. Cossitt has permission

to retain for the present the 3 mules which he obtained from the QuarterMaster Dept. He has had 35 mules taken from him by our Army and the above 3 mules are required by him to secure his crops." The claimant assumes that the 35 mules do not include the 10 taken from the Myrick place. But we think this statement, made on the 20th Nov., after all the mules had been taken, was made at an interview between Claimant and General McPherson, and referred to all the mules taken from claimant whether from the Myrick, the Urqhart or any other place. — Claimant's object was to keep the three by showing how many had been taken and that none were left; — and without reference to any paticular plantation. 1. Only ten are claimed for the Myrick place. 2. In Exhibit No. 2 dated Nov. 13th only 16 mules are claimed as taken from the Urqhart place and none are shown taken after that. This claim was meant to embrace all that had been taken. Very strong proof that only 16 were taken from the Urqhart place.

Myrick testifies that once on the road he met 22 mules of Claimant's that had been taken from the Urqhart place and that with 10 taken from Myrick's would leave just the 32 named in Exhibit 3 after deducting the three returned to him. — It may be doubted whether Myrick would distinguish between mules from Urqhart's or the other plantations. —

Wm. Cossitt's testimony that they took 30 in all from the Urqhart place is testimony as to the numbers, in which respect we can not much rely on Colored man's testimony after so long a lapse of time. —

We are fully satisfied that we do justice when we allow for 32 mules as all that were taken from Mr. Cossitt, and all that were meant by General McPherson as "taken by our Army" whether camped at Myrick's or at Urqhart's. They were very good mules and worth in Nov. 1862 $125 per head. —

Chapter 2

Petition

2.1 Cover Page

[This document may be found in Images 14 and 474]

20459 Febr. 17, 1873

Petition
of
Franklin D. Cossitt late of
Fayette County, Tennessee
to the
Comissioners of Claims

Residence of Claimant Chicago Illinois

Nature of Claim: Mules, cattle & farm
produce, taken by U. S. Army
at Fayette County Tennessee

Amount claimed: $31,620.00

Filed by
Richard McAllister
Washington, D.C.
Attorney

2.2 Body of Petition

[This document may be found in Images 15–23 and 475]

Petition

To the Honorable Commissioners of Claims, Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871, Washington, D.C.:

The Petition of Franklin D. Cossitt[1] respectfully represents:

That he is a citizen of the United States and reside at present at or near the City of Chicago[2] and that he resided when this claim accrued at or near La Grange Fayette County Tennessee[3].

That he has a claim against the United States for property taken[4] for the use of the army[5] of the United States during the late rebellion at (or near) La Grange, in the County of Fayette, and the State of Tennessee.

That the said claim, stated by items, and excluding any and all items of damage, destruction, and loss, (and not use,) of property; of unauthorized or unnecessary depredations by troops and other persons upon property, or of rent or compensation for the use or occupation of buildings, grounds, or other real estate, is as follows:

Items	Ten (10) Mules at $150.00 each	1500.00
No. 1		
2	90,000 pds of Fodder at $1.50 per hihd	900.00
3	10 Stacks 15000 pds of Hay at $1.00 per hihd	150.00
4	2625 Bus of Corn taken from field at 80 cts	2100.00
5	1125 Bus of Corn taken from Cribs at $1.00	1125.00
6	150 Bus. Sweet Potatoes at $1.00	150.00
7	150 Fat Hogs at 150 pds each at 10 cts per pd	2250.00
8	17 Hd Beef Cattle at 600 pds at 7 cts per pd	714.00
9	250 pds Brown Sugar at 16 cts per pound	40.00
10	1/2 Bbl 20 galls Molasses at $1.00 per gall	20.00
11	100 Stock Hogs at $5.00 each	500.00

The foregoing property was taken by troops under command of Genl. C. S. Hamilton U. S. Vols from 1st to 30th November 1862 from claimants plantation known as the “Myricks Place” see Exhibit No. 1.

[1] Give full names of all the petitioners.
[2] Give the residence of each petitioner.
[3] Give the former residence of each petitioner.
[4] ”Taken” or ”furnished”.
[5] Describe the organization as fully and particularly as possible

12	63 Stacks 94500 pds of Fodder $1 per hhd	945.00
13	46 Stacks 46000 pds of Hay and Pea Vines $1 per hhd	460.00
14	1 Stack 1000 pds of Hay and Pea Vines $1 per hhd	10.00
15	400 Acres of Corn 10000 Bus at 80 cts per Bus	8000.00
16	Mules at $150.00 each	2400.00
17	150 hhd Fat Hogs at 150 pds each 10 cts	2250.00
18	100 hhd Stock Hogs at North about $5 each	500.00
19	66 hhd of Cattle Cows and Calves to wit 50 Cattle $40=$2000, 10 Cows $30=$300 6 Calves $10=$60	2360.00
20	25 Bus. Corn Meal $1.00 per Bus.	25.00
21	2 Sacks Salt $10.00 per Sack	20.00
22	13 Bags 13 Bus. Dvd peaches $1.00 per Bus.	13.00
23	1200 Bus. Sweet Potatoes $1.00 per Bus.	1200.00
24	17 Setts Geer $5 per Sett	85.00

This property was taken from claimants place known as "Urquhart Plantation" by troops under the command of Major General James B. McPherson from the 1st to 13th November 1862 – Memorandum taken at the time, and signed by General McPherson is herewith attached marked as "Exhibit No. 2"

25	Nineteen (19) Mules at $150.00 each	2850.00

This property was taken by troops under command of Major General James B. McPherson about 20th November 1862. See copy of General McPherson Certificate herewith filed and marked "Exhibit No. 3" the original of which was handed by claimant to Captain Benner formerly of Major General S. A. Hurlbuts staff.

26	Two Loads = 30 Bus. Corn at $1 per Bushel	30.00
27	Two Loads = 2000 pds Fodder at $1 per Hhd	20.00

This property was taken by Lieut. J. F. Conynham acting Quarter master 16th Regt Iowa Vols by command of Brig Genl J. McArthur Commanding 6th Division Army of the Tennessee. See Exhibit No. 4 dated Nov 7th 1862 when property was taken.

28	Three (3) Loads = 4500 pds of Hay $1.00	45.00
29	Seven (7) Loads = 7000 pds of Fodder $1.00	70.00
30	Eight (8) Loads = 200 Bus. Of Corn $1.00	200.00

This property was taken by E. D. Ostrand Capt Comdg Co. "A" 4th Ills Cavly. See Exhibits No. 5 and 6.

31	Two (2) Loads = 30 Bus. Of Corn $1.00 per Bus.	30.00

This property was taken 6th Nov.1862. By J. E. Jones, Lieut and Quarter master 16th Regt Wisconsin Vols. See Exhibit 7.

32	255 Bus. Of Corn at $1.00 per Bus.	255.00
33	1600 pds of Fodder at $1.00 per Hwt	16.00

This property was taken 17th Nov 1862 by J. F. Stouffer Wagon Master 2nd Iowa Cavly. See Exhibit No. 8.

34	Four (4) Loads = 1200 pds Fodder $1.00 per Hwt	12.00
35	Five (5) Loads = 75 Bus. Of Corn $1.00 per Bus.	75.00

This property was taken on 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th & 12th days of November 1862 by B. S. Williams Lieut & A.R.Q.M. 8th Wisconsin Vols by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division Army of the Tennessee. See Exhibit Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14.

36	Four (4) Loads = 1200 pds of Fodder $1.00	12.00
37	Three Loads = 45 Bus. Of Corn $1.00	45.00
38	300 pds of Hay $1.00 per 100 pounds	3.00

This property was taken 6th 7th and 10th Nov 1862 by Lieut. C. E. Spring Quarter master 26th Ills Inftry by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division Army of the Tennessee. See Exhibit Nos. 15, 16 & 17.

39	Two (2) Loads = 30 Bus. Corn $1.00 per Bus.	30.00

This property was taken 6th November 1862 by R. Kenedy Quarter master 13th Iowa Infty as per certificate of Leslie Bassett 1st Lieut Co. "K" 13th Iowa Infty. See Exhibit No.18.

40	Ten (10) Loads = 80 Bus. Corn $1.00 per Bus.	80.00
41	Two (2) Stacks = 3000 pds of Hay $1.00 per Hwt	30.00

This property was taken 14th day of December 1862 by Enos P. Searls Wagon master 5th Regt. Q. B. C. See Exhibit No. 19

42	One (1) Steer valued at the sum of	40.00

This property was taken 14th Nov 1862 by Joshua Rickett 2nd Lieut Co. "C" Eng. Regiment of the West. See Exhibit No. 20.

	Total	$31,620.00

That this property in question was taken or furnished for the use of a portion of the army of the United States known as and commanded by Major General Jas. B. McPherson and that the persons who took or received the property, or who authorized or directed it to be taken or furnished, were the following:

Jas. B. McPherson Maj. Genl.

C. S. Hamilton Maj. Genl.

S. A. Hurlbut Maj Genl

That the property was removed to the camps[6] in the vicinity and used for or by various U. S. Troops[7] all on or about the day of , in the year 1862.

That several[8] vouchers, receipts, or other writing, were given for the property which are herewith enclosed as Exhibits from No. 1 to No. 20 with other certficiates as to claimants loyalty.

That your petitioner verily believe that the property described was taken[9]

[6] State as well as can be done the place to which the property was conveyed.

[7] State as fully and minutely as posible, the particular persons or commands using the property, and to what particular uses it was applied or intended to be applied.

[8] If any vouchers or written papers were given, attach the originals or copies, or state where the originals are to be found and give the substance of them.

[9] "Taken" or "furnished."

under the following circumstances, or one or more of such circumstances, viz :

1. For the actual use of the army, and not for the mere gratification of individual officers or soldiers already provided by the Government with such articles as were necessary or proper for them to have.
2. In consequence of the failure of the troops of the United States to receive from the Government in the customary manner, or to have in their possession at the time, the articles and supplies necessary for them, or which they were entitled to receive and have.
3. In consequence of some necessity for the articles taken, or similar articles; which necessarily justified the officers or soldiers taking them.
4. For some purpose so necessary, useful, beneficial or justifiable as to warrant or require the Government to pay for it.
5. Under the order or authority of some officer, or other person connected with the army, whose rank, situation, duties, or other circumstances at the time authorized, empowered, or justified him in taking or receiving it, or ordering it to be taken or received.

That your petitioner Franklin D. Cossitt[10] of the City of Chicago afore said was the original owner of said claim, and that he your petitioner is still the present owner of same.[11]

That your petitioner remained loyally adherent to the cause and the Government of the United States during the war, and was so loyal before and at the time of the taking of the property for which this claim is made, and he solemnly declare that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, his sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that he never, of his own free will and accord, did anything, or offered, or sought, or attempted to do anything, by word or deed, to injure said cause or retard its access, and that he was at all times ready and willing, when called upon, or if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union, or its supporters, so far as his means and power, and the circumstances of the case, permitted.

The said claim has never before been presented[12] to any branch of Government.

That Richard McAllister is hereby authorized and empowered to act as Attorney for the prosecution of this claim.

Wherefore your petitioner prays for such action of your Honorable Commission in the premises as may be deemed just and proper. Witnessees: Franklin D. Cossitt[13]

State of Illinois
County of Cook

[10]The loyalty of the owner of the proeprty when taken or furnished, and of all persons having a present beneficial interest in the claim, must be established by proof.

[11]If any other person than the original owner now own or have an interest in the claim, state how such ownership or interest was acquired.

[12]If the claim has heretofore been presented to any other branch of the Government, state when and where presented, and what action was taken upon it.

[13]Claimants sign here.

Franklin D. Cossitt[14] being duly sworn[15] deposes and says, that he is the petitioner named in the foregoing petition, and who signed the same; that the matters therein stated are true, of the deponent's own knowledge, except as those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters he believes tham to be true; and deponent further says that he did not voluntarily serve in the Confederate army or navy, either as an officer, soldier, or sailor, or in any other capacity, at any time during the late rebellion; that he never voluntarily furnished any stores, supplies, or other material aid to said Confederate army or navy, or to the Confederate government, or to any officer, department or adherent of the same in support thereof, and that he never voluntarily accepted or exercised the functions of any office whatsoever under, or yielded voluntary support to, the said Confederate government.

Witnesses: Franklin D. Cossitt

Sworn and subscribed in my presence, the 21st day of February 1873.
David B. Lyman [J. P.]
Notary Public

Name and residence of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove loyalty:

Maj. Genl. Jas. B. McPherson now dead but see certificate filed.
Maj. Genl. C. S. Hamilton, U. S. Marshall of the State of Wisconsin
Maj. Genl. S. A. Hurlbut, Member of Congress from the State of Illinois
Lieut. Genl. Sherman, Washington, D. C.
Brigadier General W. S. Smith, Maywood, Ill.
Dr. Henry Biggs, La Grange, Tennessee.

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove the other facts alleged in the foregoing petition:

E. M. Myrick, La Grange, Tenn.
Thomas J. Shelton, La Grange, Tenn.
H. O. Sykes, La Grange, Tenn.
William Cossitt, La Grange, Tenn.
Wesley Cossitt, La Grange, Tenn.
Maj. Genl. C. S. Hamilton, Wisconsin
John W. Shipp, Shelby, Tenn.
Adam Cossitt, La Grange, Tenn.
Thomas B. Firth, La Grange, Tenn.
S. Adams, La Grange, Tenn.

Post Office address of claimant: Chicago, Illinois
Post office address of attorney: Washington, D.C.

[14] Give the names of the petitioners.

[15] If more than one petitioner, insert the words, "each for himself," and in the next line insert "one of" in the proper blanks.

[16] AFTER 1st October, 1872, no Internal Revenue Stamps required.

Chapter 3

Testimony Before the Commissioners

3.1 Testimony of Franklin D. Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 24–81 and 476–521]

Washington, D. C.
June 28, 1876

No. 20.459.
Franklin D. Cossitt
(R. McAllister Esq. Appeared as Counsel for claimant.)
Franklin D. Cossitt sworn:

[Counsel asked permission to add the following items to the petition of claimant:

35,000 rails	$ 1,050
14,000 rails	420
5,000	150
20 acres standing timber	600

Permission was not granted to amend the petition.]

Commissioner Aldiss

Q. Please state your age and residence.
A. I am 53 years of age and reside at La Grange, Cook County, Illinois.
Q. Where did you reside during the war?
A. At La Grange, Fayette County, Tennessee. Until the spring of 1863, and then left and went to Chicago, where I have since resided.
Q. What was your business while you lived in Tennessee?
A. I was planting largely and also merchandizing.

Q. Did you plant cotton as well as corn?
A. Yessir.
Q. Did you own slaves?
A. Yessir – 127 of them.
Q. What was the amount of your capital invested in them?
A. I hardly know. It was a general stock. I kept a little of everything.
Q. What time in 1863 did you leave for Chicago?
A. April.
Q. After President Lincoln's Proclamation emancipating slaves?
A. I think it was. I don't recollect distinctly.
Q. Did you vote on the question of "Convention" or "No Convention" in Tennessee, in February 1861?
A. I don't recollect.
Q. Did you vote when the question of separation or no separation was submitted to the people?
A. I think I did.
Q. Which way did you vote?
A. No separation.
Q. Are you sure of that?
A. Yessir, I am.
Q. Where did you vote?
A. At Lagrange.
Q. Was there more than one precinct for voting in Lagrange?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did they have any poll books in which the names of voters were registered?
A. I do not know.
Q. What is your present business?
A. I am engaged in the real estate business. I have been in the wholesale grocery business in Chicago until February.
Q. Where is your office in Chicago?
A. At No. 71 Washington Street.
Q. You are a married man?
A. Yessir.
Q. And were married when you lived in Tennessee?
A. Yessir.
Q. How many children had you in Tennessee?
A. Six – one of them a boy.
Q. Was he old enough to go into the war?
A. Nosir. He is but 15 now.
Q. Had you any children in the war?
A. Nosir.
Q. Had you any relations in the war?
A. I had 2 cousins that were in the Confederate service and 2 cousins that were in the Union army.
Q. Did you yourself enlist, or were you conscripted into either army?

A. Nosir.
Q. What was your age when the war broke out?
A. Thirty-nine.
Q. How did you contrive to keep clear of military duty when you lived in Tennessee?
A. I hardly know how to answer that question. There was very little conscription, really, about Lagrange. There was no systematic regular rule adopted there for enforcing it. I was urged, and a great deal said and done about going into the army, but I had no idea of going into the army – didn't want to go into the army and was opposed to the war and did all I could to evade the thing and keep out of it just as I did.
Q. Did you resort to any expenditure of money, or did you furnish a substitute, or anything of that kind, in order to keep out of the army?
A. I did not.
Q. Did you contribute any money in any way, directly or indirectly for the aid of the Confederate cause?
A. Nothing willingly. I do not know that I ever did further than to give some of their soldiers something to eat, and that was a matter, you might say, of compulsion. They would frequently come and take what they wanted, or take anything, in fact.
Q. Didn't you ever give any money to the various societies and companies that were going into the war?
A. Not a dollar — and was cursed and abused for the reason that I didn't do it.
Q. You were requested to do it?
A. Yessir, but I refused and was really suspected of being an enemy to them on that account. That was, I think, one very strong reason why they—
Q. Did the Confederates ever threaten you?
A. Yessir.
Q. State who threatened you, what the threats were, etc.
A. When General Beauregard issued his order for the burning of cotton, I had cotton on hand, and opposed the burning of cotton. The Lieutenant in command — who was then in command, I think, of two companies, went through the country for the purpose of burning cotton in obedience to the command of General Beauregard. Claiming that the Yankees would get it if it was not burned. I opposed the burning of cotton and the Lieut. who had command of these companies took me by force and made me go with him and show him where my cotton was, and abused me and used very harsh language, threatening to hang me and said I was an enemy to the country and ought to leave, and so on, and a great deal of that kind of treatment.
Q. An such treatment from other persons besides the Lieutenant?
A. Well, only personal abuse.
Q. Were you ever otherwise molested by them — either by Confederate authorities or private individuals?
A. Nothing more than personal abuse and threats.
Q. No actual imprisonment, or arrest, or anything of that kind?

A. Nosir, I think not.
Q. Did you belong to any Home Guard or Vigilance Committee?
A. I belonged — I don't know hardly whether you would call it a Home Guard or not. I don't recollect the date now. But they had an organization there in our town gotten up for the protection of the citizens with reference to the negroes specially, fearing an outbreak. That is the only organization that I belonged to.
Q. How long did you belong to that?
A. Well, I think two or three days.
Q. That is to say you were under drill two or three days?
A. Well, really, there was no drills. It was simply an organization proposed and the people requested to join, and they joined it.
Q. Didn't you go to some place of rendezvous for two or three days?
A. Nosir, there was nothing of that kind.
Q. You never drilled with any gun?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you ever hunt deserters?
A. Nosir. I didn't quite finish about this cotton question. There was a gentleman there who was a pretty strong secessionist—an old citizen he was there and a personal acquaintance and he thought quite hard of me—Major Winston, and also Capt. Jones who is now living. I was then a prominent, wealthy planter. They thought I was acting wrong to do and say as much as I did on the occasion, and spoke of the bonds or receipts which they proposed to give for this cotton—that they would be paid. I told them that I didn't regard the receipt as being worth anything—I had no confidence in their promises or ability to pay. And Major Winston had so much to say. He had a horse—a very good horse—holding him by the reins and there was quite a crowd around and I told him if he had so much confidence as he expressed, if I got any receipts (this was before they burned the cotton) what would he give me for my receipts. He said he thought they would be worth par. "Well," said I, "Major, I have got 200 and odd bales of cotton and if my cotton is burned up, to show you how much confidence I have got in them—you have got a pretty good horse there, and I will give you all my right and interest in the claim, for the horse." Well, he got somewhat excited and thought I was acting very impudently and that I would get myself into trouble. That was about the end of the cotton question.
Q. What month in 1863 was it that you left there?
A. In April.
Q. Did you ever take any oath to bear allegiance to the Confederate States?
A. I never did. I had notice served on me not to pay any Eastern debts, very early. I don't recollect the date. I went on and paid right along so fast as I could get money, and continued to pay.
Q. Have you ever taken any amnesty oath?
A. Oath of Allegiance to the United States? Oh, yes! I took that when the troops first came in.

Q. Have you ever been pardoned by the President, or did you ever apply for a pardon?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you ever hold any civil office under the State or Confederate States gov't – justice-of-the-peace or anything of the kind?
A. Nosir — none whatever.
Q. Did you ever act as Agent or Clerk in the employment of the Confederate authorities in any way?
A. Never.
Q. Were you ever in any capacity in the military or naval service of the State or Confederacy?
A. Nosir.
Q. Never in the State militia?
A. Nosir.
Q. Or in any "home guard," "vigilance committee," except what you have already stated?
A. Nosir.
Q. Never in the rebel service or furnished a substitute?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you ever purchase supplies in any way for the Confederate gov't?
A. Nosir — none whatever.
Q. Did you ever have charge of any property for the Confederate authorities?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you have it in your possession to keep for them?
A. Nosir.
Q. Were you ever engaged in the manufacture of anything for their use — either munitions of war, boots, shoes, clothing, or anything of the kind?
A. I was connected with a foundry in Lagrange — a little, small establishment where they were making plows: that was the legitimate business. A party named John W. Shipp was buying merchandize of me and had got into my debt, and to save myself I bought a half interest in his business. That was right at the commencement of the war — I don't recollect the date. He had (by force) taken some work in making shot and shell for the Confederate authorities at Memphis, under pressure, as he said, they would have confiscated what iron he had and everything he had if he hadn't done it, and I in that way became interested in that business. As soon as I became interested there I was the cause of Mr. Shipp's quitting making any shot or shell — I was opposed to it, I told him so, but I was very anxious to secure the indebtedness. When Gen. Sherman first came into our country I told him all about it — I made a plain statement of the facts to him in reference to that particular thing, and he very kindly said that he didn't think it amounted to anything, so far as I was concerned.
Q. Is Mr. Shipp living?
A. I think so. I don't know his exact locality. He is near Memphis I think — either down in north Mississippi. Or may be out some 10 or 15 miles

from Memphis. He was with a party there for a number of years. I haven't heard from him for 2 years.
Q. When was it that you took an interest in this foundry?
A. I think it was in 1862 — along in the summer or fall. The federal troops came in July I think and it was a short time before they came in.
Q. How long after you took an interest in that foundry did you continue to manufacture shot and shell?
A. A very short time. I should not think it was three weeks.
Q. Did you stop before the Union troops came there?
A. Yessir. I should think about a month before, I am not certain as to the date though.
Q. An you never were engaged in manufacturing anything in aid of the Confederacy except the shot and shell of this foundry as you have stated?
A. Nosir, nothing. Then we had no material. It didn't amount to anything anyway.
Q. How much pay did you receive for shot and shell as your share after you went into the foundry?
A. I didn't receive any pay. I don't know what amount was ever collected. Mr. Shipp attended to that. I didn't give any personal attention to the foundry at all, and no charge of the business at all — the debts, collections, or management of it.
Q. You have stated that you were, on a certain occasion, arrested for a short time, in reference to the cotton taken?
A. Well, I don't know whether you would hardly call it an arrest. I was taken by the Lieutenant and compelled to go along with him.
Q. Were you ever arrested on any other occasion by the Confederates?
A. Nosir.
Q. Were you ever arrested by the United States?
A. Yessir. In the fall of 1862 I was arrested by Gen. Wm. Sooy Smith, and I was kept under arrest 10 days or 2 weeks — I don't recollect the exact time.
Q. Where were you kept in custody?
A. At Lagrange — in a room they selected for that purpose.
Q. What was the charge they made against you?
A. Well, there was a spy arrested there, as they claimed, and in examining him, in giving in his evidence he stated he had come to my house and got something to eat and in connection with that that he had gone by one of my plantations and had got something to eat from the negroes, that he had asked where he could get something to eat in town, and they told him their master was rich and that he never refused to give anybody something to eat. That was his statement, and they thought there was some complicity or something wrong in connection with myself, as coming to the plantation and then coming to my house to get something to eat. On that I was held about ten days and then I wrote to Gen. Hurlbut — no, I didn't write, but I got an officer to write (I don't recollect his name) to Gen. Hurlbut, and Gen. Hurlbut answered it and requested Gen. Smith to give me a fair trial, stating

that he knew something of me and he didn't think I had done anything wrong and would say I was a Union man. That is the way I understood it. I may not have all the facts in connection with it. Anyway, I was tried, and they brought up about everything they could against me. I think that Gen. Smith thought that possibly there was something wrong somewhere. And they brought up this shot and shell question and my connection with that foundry and the feeding of this soldier.

Q. Did you have a fair trial?

A. Yessir. Colonel Hatch was one of the Commission and there were 2 others, I don't recollect their names.

Q. Is Colonel Hatch living?

A. I think he is.

Q. Where?

A. I don't know.

Q. From what state was he?

A. I don't know. He was a General afterwards, I think. He was a cavalry officer I believe.

Q. What was the verdict of the Commission?

A. I was acquitted and General Smith sent for me and treated me very kindly afterwards, and I understood from his remarks, that he thought I had been treated wrong, and that the only ground they had for suspecting anything wrong was simply the statement of that spy that he had got something to eat at my plantation and that the negroes had directed him to my house at Lagrange and that he had come there and got something to eat, and they thought that looked suspicious, and General Smith thought it was just ground for arresting me. After arresting me they summoned a good many witnesses. I think Dr. Henry Biggs was one, and George P. Shelton, I think was another.

Q. Were they witnesses against you or for you?

A. I don't think I called any witnesses at all. They brought up this spy as they called him.

Q. What was his name?

A. I forget hist name.

Q. Did he live at Lagrange?

A. Nosir. He claimed to live in Kentucky and claimed to have been sent down there to steal mules or get mules for the federal army. In cross-questioning him I had no attorney. I asked General Hatch in reference to that same question and told him I could not imagine what they could prove against me: that I knew of, nothing had been done. I asked this man if he ever knew me before. He said he did not; that he never had known me. I asked him if he ever saw me before the time he called on me and asked for something to eat, and he said he never had.

Q. Did you ever do anything for the Union cause while you lived in Tennessee?

A. Yessir. I went to Bolivar 21 miles north of our place when Grant and McPherson were located there with troops, and they supposed the Confed-

erates were in large force at Lagrange and between there and Holly Springs and I went to McPherson's headquarters and told him he would have no difficulty at all in coming into the country there and taking possession of everything — that the Confederate forces didn't amount to much. He thought I was pretty well posted and knew what I was talking about.
Q. Who did you tell this to?
A. To Gen. McPherson. I returned the same day that I went up there, and I think it was the next day that they came into our town — the troops came right down.
Q. Did you do anything else to aid the Union cause?
A. Nothing specially, that I remember.
Q. Did you contribute any money?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you ever aid any soldiers in the hospitals?
A. I very often fed them, and I have a pass from Gen. McPherson to go to one of my places across at Balls Bridge, and when I got there they were having a fight — the Confederates and federals and the federal officer stopped me and asked me where I was going. I told them I wanted to go to my farm. The officer in command said, "Well, you can not go." Finally he said, "If you want to go (you see what is going on), you can go." I told him I didn't want to go. They were bringing over a good many soldiers, them that had been wounded and some killed, and there was one brought over who was badly wounded, and I was in a buggy and the officer asked me if I would not take him to town, about 3 miles, and I did so. I forgot that until just now since you made the inquiry. Anything that people did at that time, on either side, was noted by the citizens as a matter of course, and they were to some extent held accountable — censured at least and abused. It was a very peculiar time.
Q. Did you ever contribute to the Union hospitals?
A. Nosir. I don't think they had a hospital there.
Q. Did you ever receive a pass from any Confederate officer or authority?
A. Nosir.
Q. Did you ever hold any office under the Union or Confederate authorities?
A. Nosir.
Q. At the beginning of the rebellion did you sympathize with the Union cause?
A. I did.
Q. Did you talk about it?
A. I did.
Q. To whom and when?
A. Well, I talked to this same gentleman Dr. Biggs and I had an uncle residing there that I talked with a great deal.
Q. Did you take any active part in the political canvass in regard to "separation" or "no separation"?
A. I did not take an active part at all. I never have taken an active part in politics. I have studiously avoided it all my life. I have had so much to

do that I have never given any time or attention to politics in no way. In a great many elections I have never gone to the polls even, to vote.
Q. Do you solemnly declare that from the beginning of hostilities against the U.S. to the end thereof, your sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States?
A. I do.
Q. An that you never, of your own free will and accord did anything or offered or sought or attempted to do anything by word or deed to injure said cause or retard its success?
A. Never.
Q. An you were at all times ready and willing when called upon, and if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union?
A. Yessir.
Q. If there is anything else that you have not stated in regard to your loyalty or disloyalty I wish you would now state.
A. I do not know that I have anything special.
Q. Can you name any citizens at Lagrange, Tennessee, with whom you were acquainted, who were Union men?
A. Yessir. There was Mr. Rosine — I forget his given name. He is now living at Lagrange. Dr. Henry Biggs, I believe lives at Salisbury, Henderson County, Tennessee. He is an old citizen of Lagrange. Mark Pullian of Lagrange.
Q. Have you any papers or exhibits to show your loyalty?
A. Yessir.

Producing Gen. McPherson's certificate of Nov. 5, 1862; filed as Exhibit 1.

Q. Was that handed to you by General McPherson?
A. Yessir.

Claimant also filed a statement of property taken from him, endorsed by Gen. McPherson. Filed marked Exhibit No. 2 (referred to in Petition as Exhibit No. 1)

Claimant: That was given to me by General McPherson from his own hand.

Claimant also filed a pass from gen. McPherson dated Nov. 14, 1862. Exhibit No. 3.

Q. Did you receive that pass from General McPherson?
A. Yessir. I think I then called on the Provost Marshal.

Claimant also filed a pass dated Nov. 20, 1862. (Exhibit No. 4)

Claimant: I received that from Gen. McPherson.

Claimant also filed a permission from Gen. McPherson to retain three mules, dated Nov. 20, 1862. (Exhibit No. 5.)

Claimant: This is a duplicate of the original which I received from Gen. McPherson's own hand. The original was handed to Capt. Penner.

Also filed letter from Gen. W. T. Sherman dated June 16, 1862 (Exhibit No. 6)

Q. What do you say about that?
A. I don't know that I have anything special to say. I cannot say who I received it from. I had several interviews with General Sherman while he was at Lagrange.
Q. Did you have charge of trestles and teams, and state whether it was for the Union service or not.
A. I brought in from my Irkwood*(ed: Urqhart)* place some oxen and wagons and chains and negroes for the purpose of hauling timber to build these bridges — this trestle-work, and I went out with Colonel McDowell into a skirt of timber there for the purpose of selecting timber, and I rendered all the assistance I could.
Q. How long were you engaged in that?
A. Not more than two or three days.
Q. That was as early as June 1862?
A. Yessir.
Q. When did you take the oath of allegiance to the United States?
A. I think sometime in June 1862.
Q. *(Handing 2 "oaths" to witness)* Did you ever take any oath earlier than Nov. 1862?
A. I don't recollect. I don't much believe that I did. I am under the impression that this *[indicating]* is the first.
Q. Nov. 19th?
A. Yessir.

(Oaths filed marked Exhibits 7 & 8)

Claimant also filed the following as Exhibits:

Letter from J. H. Hammond, June 15, 1862, (Exhibit No.9)
Certificate from Gen. Hurlbut, Nov. 18, 1862 (Exhibit No. 10)
Pass from gen Hurlbut dated Apl 14, 1863. (Exhibit No.11)
Letter from Gen Hurlbut dated Apl.14, 1863. (Exhibit No. 12)
Letter from Gen Hurlbut dated Nov. 22, 1862. (Exhibit No. 13)
Letter from Gen Hamilton dated Apl. 1, 1864. (Exhibit No. 14)

Q. Did you receive that from General Hamilton?
A. Yessir.

Permit to purchase cotton from John E. Smith. Provost Marshal dated Nov. 22, 1862 (Exhibit No.15)

Q. Was that given to you by him?
A. Yessir.

Letter from Liet. E. V. Cherry dated Nov. 22, 1862 (Exhibit No. 16)

Claimant: I received that from him.

Letter from James F. Gilbert dated Nov. 25, 1863. (Exhibit No.17)
Certificate of Col. Cushman dated Apl. 9, 1864 (Exhibit No. 18)
Permit from Gen. W. Sooy Smith dated Apl 8, 1863 (Exhibit No.19)

Claimant also filed receipts for property taken which were filed and marked Exhibits No. 20 to 34, inclusive.

Also a receipt for one steer, dated Nov. 14, 1862 (Exhibit No. 35)

Claimant: I remember the taking of the steer.
Q. Do you remember anything about the weight being given or its genuineness?
A. My memory is not clear on that. I do not know how I could have it unless it is genuine.
Counsel: Where were you born?
A. At Granby, Hartford County, Connecticut.
Q. How long did you live there?
A. I was about 15 when I left there and went to Lagrange.
Q. What year did you go to Lagrange?
A. In 1836.
Q. When you left home was your father living or dead?
A. He was dead.
Q. Was your mother living?
A. Yessir.
Q. How many sisters had you?
A. Three.
Q. What did you do when you arrived at Lagrange?
A. I commenced clerking for an uncle I had there. — George G. Cossitt, and remained with him 6½ years.
Q. What did he then propose to you?
A. He proposed a co-partnership.
Q. Did you accept?
A. Nosir. I declined it.
Q. Did you have a settlement with him?
A. Yessir. He gave me $600.
Q. Did he give you any letter of credit to merchants in New York at that time?

A. Yessir.
Q. Where did you go then?
A. I went home and saw my mother and sisters. They had moved to Hartford, Conn., then.
Q. What did you do with the $600?
A. I gave it all to them except enough to go back to Tennessee with.
Q. Did you go back to Tennessee?
A. I did, after buying a stock of goods on credit. I got $5,000 worth.
Q. You carried them back and established a store?
A. Yessir.
Q. When was that?
A. In 1842.
Q. What kind of store was it?
A. General stock. I kept a little of everything.
Q. Did you keep that store until the war broke out?
A. I went out of business in 1849 (I think it was) temporarily, and I was out, probably, something like 8 or 10 months. With that exception I was in business all the time.
Q. Was your business prosperous there?
A. Very.
Q. What property did you become the owner of there — state the whole thing.
A. I went on merchandizing and commenced buying land and negroes and planting.
Q. How many plantations had you?
A. I had three pretty large ones and a small place — 300-odd acres it was.
Q. You have stated you had 127 slaves. What were they worth?
A. I suppose about a thousand dollars apiece at that time.
Q. That would be $127,000. What were the plantations and the stock worth?
A. I should think they were worth over $100,000.
Q. What was your net income after supporting your slaves and overseers *etc.* – derived from these plantations per year — the average income?
A. I should thnk about $20,000. I was managing my matters pretty closely. I never had anything to do with politics or anything outside of my legitimate business.
Q. You lived in Lagrange?
A. Yessir.
Q. What did your house there cost you?
A. That I built a short time before the war. I had a block there – a square. The entire block and improvements cost me about $18,000.
Q. You made all this property by your own indefatigable industry?
A. Nosir. I got a little by marriage — $5,000 or $6,000 all told, probably. With that exception I made it.
Q. Who did you vote for in 1860?
A. Bell and Everett.

Q. Were they considered Union men or secessionists in that part of the country?
A. Union men.
Q. You say you knew Dr. Biggs, Mr. Rosine and Mr. Pulliam of Lagrange to be Union men?
A. Yessir.
Q. Did you have frequent conversations with those gentlemen before and during the progress of the war?
A. I had.
Q. Did you regard them as Union men and did they regard you as such?
A. Yessir. I think so; they have always said so.
Q. Is your uncle George G. Cossitt living?
A. Nosir; he is dead.
Q. Was he regarded as a Union man?
A. Yessir; he was.
Q. Lagrange is near the Mississippi line, isn't it?
A. About 4½ miles, I think.
Q. That part of the country was very decidedly rebel, wasn't it?
A. Pretty strong. There were a good many who were not outspoken Union men, who I think at heart were really union men. They were afraid to express themselves.
Q. This foundry that you have spoken of. That you say belonged to J. W. Shipp?
A. Yessir.
Q. They were making plows there?
A. Yessir.
Q. An shot and shell?
A. Yessir.
Q. You say you broke up the manufacture of shot and shell as soon as you could?
A. I did, after I bought an interest in it.
Q. You stopped that as quick as you could?
A. Yessir.
Q. You didn't authorize the making of any shot or shell in any way?
A. Nosir.
Q. An everything that was done in that direction was done by your other partner against your wishes and consent, I understand?
A. He had the entire management and control. I simply had an interest in the business to secure myself for the money he owed me.
Q. You say you were arrested by General W. Sooy Smith, and kept sometime, and discharged?
A. Yessir.
Q. That is the same General Smith who gave you permission to sell your property and go to Chicago?
A. Yessir.
Q. Where is he living now?

A. Near Chicago.
Q. The foundry question was involved in that trial, as well as the spy matter?
A. Yessir. After I moved to Chicago General Smith hailed me on the street. I was driving in a buggy and I drove up to the sidewalk and he came and offered me his hand and I shook hands with him. He remarked it was Mr. Cossitt he believed. I told him yes, but that I didn't recollect him, however. He wanted to know if I didn't recollect General W. Sooy Smith. I told him that I did — as soon as he mentioned his own name, and I told him I was glad to see him. He asked me, "Are you glad to see me?" I told him I was. He said, "I am very glad to know it." We had some conversation and I invited him to come and see me at my office, and he did so afterwards. I suppose he thought possibly I had some unkind feeling towards him, from the remark he made.
Q. Were you acquainted with General Sherman and General McPherson, General Hamilton and General Hurlbut?
A. Yessir.
Q. State whether, at different times, you gave these Generals any information in regard to the disposition of the Confederate forces, or anything that would be to the advantage of the federal army.
A. I had several interviews with each one of them. I talked very freely with them as to the Confederacy and as to the troops, and being called upon, gave them all the information I could give them.
Q. Did you ever go back again to Connecticut to see your mother and sisters after the time you gave them the money?
A. Yessir. I went back every year almost.
Q. Is your mother living now?
A. Yessir with me in Chicago.
Q. Where is your sister living?
A. One in Denver, married, one in Chicago, and one in Connecticut.
Q. Have you all your life helped to support them?
A. I have. I have done a great deal for them and am glad I have been able to do it.
Q. Was your feeling at all times, from the time you went South, and during the whole time of your residence there in favor of the Union and against any division?
A. It was, always.
Q. Had you ever any sympathy at all with secession in any shape or form?
A. Nosir. I told many of them that if they could gain their independence and if there was a possible division, that it would be the worst thing for the South in the world.
Q. Your judgment and your actions were always against it. Was it considered dangerous there to express your opinions openly?
A. Yessir, it was very dangerous after the war had really commenced.
Q. You spoke about burning your cotton. Did these agents of Beauregard burn your cotton?
A. Yessir.

Q. How much did they burn for you?
A. Two hundred and sixty odd bales.
Q. Did you protest against it all the time?
A. I did.
Q. Did they carry you by force to the different places where the cotton was?
A. Yessir, they compelled me to go.
Q. Have you ever got anything from anybody for that cotton?
A. Nosir, and I never expected anything.
Q. How did the Confederate authorities look upon Southern men who were opposed to the burning of cotton?
A. They thought they were Yankees or ought to go with the Yankees.
Q. Were you regarded down there by them as a Yankee?
A. Yessir, and called so very often and denounced as such. If I had been a large slaveholder there I would have been hung. I don't believe I could have staid there or lived there a month.
Q. Did you have debts at the North for goods etc. at the breaking out of the war?
A. Yessir.
Q. Well, you paid those debts?
A. Yessir. But I was notified by the Confederate authorities, by letter, not to do it.
Q. Have you paid them all?
A. Yessir.
Q. Did you go to Chicago as soon as you could get out of the country? You went in April 1863.
A. Very nearly. The troops came in there permanently in the fall of 1862 and I left in April 1863. I could not have been very well gotten out sooner.
Q. You sold what you could of your personal property and left, did you?
A. Yessir.
Q. State whether any citizens there at that time had made deposits of money with you!
A. Yessir, quite a number of them.
Q. Before you left state whether you offered to pay it back to them?
A. I did. Some I paid back, and some they would not receive — would not take it, and some I took with me to Chicago and one party I paid three years afterwards. He didn't call on me for it until three years afterwards and I paid it and paid him six per cent interest.
Q. Have you paid off all the sums you took with you to Chicago?
A. Yessir, every dollar.
Q. Were these men who gave you their money, Union men or not?
A. Well, the money I took to Chicago was for Mr. Wm. M. May who was a strong Union man and so regarded.
Q. Was he afraid to have the money kept down there?
A. He was afraid he might be robbed.
Q. And you took it with you as a favor to him?
A. Yessir.

Q. Did you state that you paid all your Northern debts?
A. Yessir.

Commissioner Aldis:

Q. Now as to the taking of the property. You had three large plantations?
A. Yessir.
Q. The first one was called what?
A. The Myrick place.
Q. How far was it from Lagrange?
A. Between three and four miles.
Q. How many acres in it?
A. We called it a thousand acres.
Q. How many hands did you work on it?
A. I think there were about thirty hands.
Q. How many mules did you keep on it?
A. Twenty-odd head.
Q. How many oxen?
A. I believe six yoke.
Q. Any cattle?
A. Yessir, quite a number of cattle. I raised a good many cattle and kept a good many cows and I should think about a hundred oxen and cows on the Myrick place.
Q. Any sheep?
A. Nosir.
Q. Any swine?
A. Yessir, a great many hogs. That was one leading feature with me in farming. I used to sell a good deal of meat and lard. I thought raising hogs was about as good as anything else.
Q. Now name the second plantation that you had?
A. The Urquhart place.
Q. How many acres in that?
A. Between 1600 and 1700.
Q. How many acres cleared and cultivated?
A. Over a thousand, and there was a little over 700 in the Myrick place, cultivated.
Q. How many hands did you employ on it?
A. Some 35, I think.
Q. Did you raise cotton on both these places?
A. Yessir.
Q. Whereabouts is this Urquhart place situated?
A. About three or four miles S.W. The other was between three and four miles N.E. from the town.
Q. Tell how many mules, cattle, etc. you had on this place.
A. There were about thirty head of mules, and more cattle and more hogs on that place than there was on the other, and better range and larger outlet for them. There was a very fine range there for hogs and cattle. It was on

Wolf River and there was a great deal of most that enabled us to raise hogs cheaply.
Q. Now the third plantation.
A. That was about 8 miles South — the Sykes place, of 800 acres – 400 cleared.
Q. How many hands?
A. There were 21 or 22 hands, 13 or 14 mules and other things in proportion.
Q. Well, all this property you owned prior to the coming of the federal army?
A. Yessir.
Q. An other place?
A. There was a place containing a little upwards of 300 acres about a mile South of Lagrange. That was sometimes called the Adams tract or place. About a hundred acres of that was cultivated.
Q. How many hands?
A. The hands from the Myrick place cultivated that. They raised corn there entirely.
Q. Those are the four places that you owned?
A. Yessir.
Q. Do you know anything, personally, about the taking of the eleven items charged in the petition as taken from the Myrick place?
A. I saw them shoot down some hogs at the Myrick place — I can't say how many. I was out there two or three times and I saw the soldiers kill some hogs and some beef cattle and I also saw some of the mules belonging to the Myrick place in some army wagons driving through town. I didn't see them taken from the place.
Q. Any other of the eleven items did you see taken?
A. I did not.
Q. Now of the ten mules charged as taken from the Myrick place how many did you see that you could identify as your own afterwards in the use of the army?
A. I think seven.
Q. Where did you see them?
A. In Lagrange.
Q. What were they doing when you saw them?
A. They were hauling — hitched to wagons going to and fro.
Q. In the vast number of mules that the army had, are you sure that you could identify these seven?
A. I think I could.
Q. Might they not have been other mules — other than those seven?
A. I do not think they were.
Q. Can you describe them now — how they were marked, *etc*?
A. I do not know that I could exactly.
Q. Did you ever see those seven more than once afterwards?
A. I do not know that I ever saw them afterwards.
Q. Are you sure that you saw seven at that time?
A. Yessir, I am as sure as a person could be under such circumstances.

Q. How many hogs did you see killed on the Myrick place?

A. Well, very few. At the time I speak of, they were camping all around on the plantation and it was in the rear (or South) from where the house stood, that they were shooting, and it was in a little skirt of woods. They were shooting quite a number of hogs. I saw several shot down and saw the soldiers cutting up some of them and some of them were cleaning.

Q. Did they carry off the whole hog?

A. Nosir. Well, they usually, from what I saw them cut up, would take the quarters, and the balance seemed to be left — the main forequarters was all they took.

Q. Did they take those away on wagons?

A. Nosir, they were camped.

Q. Whose troops were they that shot the hogs?

A. General Hamilton's.

Q. Were the officers present when they were shooting?

A. I don't think they were present, but they were near.

Q. Didn't General Hamilton have his supply train along?

A. I suppose I don't know.

Q. How many troops were those under command of Hamilton?

A. I don't know; a good many thousand.

Q. How long were they camped there?

A. Several weeks.

Q. You are not able to say there was any real necessity for taking these hogs, are you?

A. Nosir. I do not know that I could.

Q. How large was the body of troops — five or ten thousand men, or more?

A. I don't know; I have no means of saying. It was a large body of troops but I have no actual knowledge of the number.

Q. This paper which your Counsel calls "Exhibit No. 1," and which is marked by us "Exhibit No. 2" — do you know anything about when it was made and who made it?

Counsel: Is that in your handwriting?

A. Yessir.

Commissioner Aldis:

Q. When did you make it?

A. It was made in the winter of 1862. Mr. Myrick who was the overseer on the place kept a memorandum and I made this from his report.

Q. From what he told you?

A. Yessir. He had charge of everything I had been on the place several years.

Q. In your petition you state that items 12 to 24 inclusive, were taken from the Urquhart plantation. Did you see any of these items taken yourself?

A. I saw some of the cattle driven off by the soldiers.

Q. How many cattle did you see driven off?

A. I don't know; there was quite a crowd of them — 35 or 40 head, perhaps.

Q. What kind of cattle?

A. Beef cattle, most of them, in good order — steers most of them.

Q. Where were they driving the cattle to?
A. They were going towards Lagrange.
Q. Where they were encamped?
A. Yessir.
Q. Was McPherson's corps than camped at Lagrange?
A. They were, some of them, and some of them were North of the plantation about a mile.
Q. Besides these cattle, did you see any of these other items taken from the Urquhart place?
A. I saw some of the mules at the same time. Some soldiers caught quite a number of mules. One of them had a mule we called "Tiger" — hardly any one could ride him at all and he came very near killing one of the soldiers — so near that that soldier didn't carry him off, but another soldier swore that he could ride him and he did succeed in riding him off. They had halters with them. I don't recollect the number that they took.
Q. In your best judgment, how many of the 16 mules charged from the Urquhart plantation did you see either taken off at the time you speak of, or in the use of the army afterwards?
A. I could not say; I don't know — I should think ten or twelve at the time I speak of. There were 35 mules taken from that place altogether — at both times; 16 one time and 19 another. The time I speak of is the only time I ever saw any mules taken. I should think there were 10 or 12 mules.
Q. Do you mean to include in that ten or twelve the seven you spoke of before?
A. Nosir, they were from the Myrick place.
Q. This 10 or 12 is in addition to the former number?
A. Yessir.
Q. Did you see any other property taken from the Urquhart place?
A. Nothing personally taken.
Q. This is in your handwriting? *[Handing witness Exhibit No. 2.A]*
A. Yessir.
Q. Give us a history of how you wrote it and when and whether you presented it to General McPherson.
A. Mr. Gilchrist was on the Urquhart place and Mr. Myrick on the Myrick place. Mr. Gilchrist had been with me only about two years, and Myrick had been with me many years. I relied on Mr. Myrick to superintend not only where he was, but required him to come to this place frequently and look after it. I had the utmost confidence in him and his management. Mr. Gilchrist kept a memorandum which he gave me, just as Mr. Myrick had done. This was made out in the winter of 1862. I don't recollect the date.
Q. This is dated Nov. 13.
A. Yessir. I got it in the same way that I got from Mr. Myrick.
Q. Is Mr. Myrick living?
A. Yessir, near Lagrange. Edward M. Myrick.
Q. Is Mr. Gilchrist living?
A. Nosir, he is dead.

Q. Is Lagrange Mr. Myrick's post office address?
A. Yessir. He has lived there for a good many years.
Q. Now items 26 and 27 — 30 bushels corn and 2000 pounds fodder, taken by Lieut. Cunningham [See Exhibit No. 4 dated Nov 7, 1862] You know nothing more about that than the receipt?
A. Nosir.
Q. Do you know anything about the three loads or 4500 pounds hay, 7000 pounds of fodder and 200 bushels corn taken by E.D. Osband?
A. I don't personally.

Counsel:

Q. Now as regards the Myrick place. About how many hogs were on that place at the time the federal army came there?
A. I suppose we had upwards of 300 head there.
Q. State about the average weight of those hogs.
A. When I say upwards of 300 head, I mean fattening hogs and shoats and sows. I should think the fattening hogs would weigh 150, and the rest probably 75 to 80 pounds.
Q. What was pork worth a pound at that time?
A. I think about ten cents.
Q. How many head of cattle had you on this Myrick place?
A. I think it was about a hundred head.
Q. About what would they average?
A. I should think the steers would weigh 600.
Q. Then you had cows there?
A. Yessir, and yearlings.
Q. Were they in good condition?
A. Yessir. We had plenty for them to eat, and they were in first-rate condition.
Q. What was beef worth a pound there at that time?
A. I think it was worth about six cents.
Q. What was the price of corn there in 1862?
A. there was no market then to fix the prices.
Q. How much corn did you raise on this Myrick place — you say you had 700 acres cleared.
A. Yessir, a little over 700.
Q. How much of that was in corn?
A. I think there was over 400 acres of it.
Q. Was 1862 a good corn year?
A. A very fine corn year.
Q. Did you raise more than the average crop that year?
A. I think we raised rather more than the average crop.
Q. How much corn would it average there to the acre?
A. I should say 25 to 30 bushels. I used to make better corn than some of my neighbors who didn't plow so deep or keep so good mules.
Q. Had you much corn stored there in 1862 on the Myrick place?
A. Yessir; a good deal.

Q. Had you cribs there on the Myrick place?
A. Yessir.
Q. Were those cribs full?
A. Yessir. I do not know that it would do to say they were all perfectly full because we were using some corn all the time and we used out of the cribs.
Q. I mean did you gather the corn and then fill all the cribs?
A. We didn't gather all the corn. Some corn was taken by the troops out of the fields.
Q. Some was in the cribs and some in the fields?
A. Yessir.
Q. How much corn would those cribs on the Myrick place hold?
A. I should think 2500 bushels.
Q. How was the corn in the field — shucked?
A. Nosir, it was left as it grew and we gathered it whenever we had time. Corn would stand there until December very nicely.
Q. What proportion was in the crib, and what was in the field on the Myrick place?
A. I could not state what proportion.
Q. How many acres of corn had you on the Urquhart place — you say you had a thousand cleared there?
A. Yessir.
Q. You had some cotton and some corn?
A. I had a small crop of cotton at each place.
Q. How much corn had you at the Urquhart place?
A. I think there were over 500 acres there.
Q. Would that make the same average as the Myrick place?
A. Qute as good. It was really better land.
Q. How many mules did you have on the Urquhart place?
A. About thirty.
Q. How many head of hogs did you have there?
A. About 400 head. We had more there than at the Myrick place.
Q. How many cattle?
A. We had more cattle. We had considerably over a hundred head there. We had a very fine range.
Q. This other little place called the Adams place. What was that cultivated in?
A. In corn. Mr. Myrick had charge of that place.
Q. Would that average about the same amount of corn to the acre?
A. Nosir. I should not think it was quite so good. Say between 20 to 25 bushels.
Q. You brought the stock to work that place from the Myrick place?
A. Yessir.
Q. Had you any cattle, mules, or hogs, belonging to this place particularly?
A. Nosir.
Q. You had another place called the Sykes place. Where was that?
A. That was nine miles South.

Q. These other places are all in Fayette County?
A. Yessir, and the Sykes place was in Benton County, Mississippi. I had 800 acres there; 400 acres cleared.
Q. Is Sykes living now?
A. I think so. H. O. Sykes, Post Office address Benton, Benton County, Mississippi.
Q. How many mules had you at that place?
A. Twelve or fourteen.
Q. Was that as good a place for corn as the other places?
A. It was very fine land.
Q. How much corn would it average to the acre?
A. We did not consider that the place differed much in the average crop. Some years it would make more, and sometimes less.
Q. How many acres had you in corn there in 1862?
A. I don't recollect a pretty large corn crop. I should think there was a little upwards of 200 acres.
Q. Had you any hogs there?
A. Yessir. I don't know how many. I should think 140 or 150 of them.
Q. How many cattle?
A. Some sixty-odd.
Q. When did the federal army first come there?
A. It was in July I think.
Q. When they first came there was this stock undisturbed as you have described it?
A. Yessir.
Q. When the army left did you visit your plantations afterwards?
A. Yessir.
Q. What did you find with regard to your stock and produce — after the army left?
A. The army went to Memphis in June and came back again in November. After they finally left there I found everything gone, it was a general cleaning up; it was stripped of everything. The people didn't know what they were going to do to live.
Q. And your agents made reports to you of what was taken?
A. Yessir.
Q. An upon those reports and what you saw yourself you have filed your claim here ?
A. Yessir.
Q. Is there anything else that you want to state here?
A. I do not think of anything.

3.2 Testimony of Stephen A. Hurlbut

[This document may be found in Images 521–532]

Washington. D. C. June 29, 1876.

Hon. Stephen A. Hurlbut, sworn:

Commissioner Aldiss:

Q. Please state your age, residence and occupation.

A. I am 60 years of age, reside at Belvidere, Illinois. And my present occupation is that of a Member of Congress.

Q. During the war you were a Major General in the army and had command for a while at LaGrange Tennessee. Did you not?

A. Yessir. I was a Brigadier General commanding the fourth division of the Army of the Tennessee, and after capturing Corinth, we moved across the country on the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. I occupied the country around Grand Junction, and Lagrange, Corinth being my headquarters for a while. That was perhaps in June or July 1862.

Q. Did you during that time become acquainted with the claimant F. D. Cossitt?

A. Yessir. I became acquainted with Mr. Cossitt as soon as I came into Lagrange I think.

Q. Please state your means of knowledge as to his being a loyal or disloyal man to the U. S. Government.

A. Mr. Cossitt was among the first of the men in that region of country who came out openly and avowedly when the army came there, as a Union man and so declared himself at once to me and to my officers, and I found upon inquiring that he was so considered by the people there before we came. He was under a cloud. That section of Tennessee along the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad was bitterly secession. The region North of it, up above, was very much more divided in sentiment. From all the means of information I could get at that time (and it was my business to know) I was advised that he was distinguished as a Union man, and has always been loyal to the government. He gave us a great deal of important information, and his conduct was so marked by his known fidelity to the Union that when I was about to move on from Lagrange to Memphis and there was no probability that the troops would be retained there, Mr. Cossitt considered it necessary (and I have no doubt it was) for him to leave the country aand he went, I think, immediately to Chicago — I would not be positive about that.

Q. In your judgement it would not have been safe for him to have remained?

A. Nossir. They would have executed him, sure. He was about my headquarters a good deal and was known to give me information, important information too, and that connected with his marked career before, would have made it absolutely unsafe for him to have remained there. I do not think his life would have been worth a straw outside of the range that was covered by the U. S. troops. There are not a great many people in the South that I can vouch for as being essentially Union people, but I can for Mr. Cossitt.

Q. Did you know anything in regard to his property — his plantations, and how they were stocked?

A. I could not tell that. I have a sort of general knowledge and that is all. Major Daniel J. Benner, who was my quartermaster could, I have no doubt, give pretty full information on that subject.

Q. Where is he now?

A. At Gettysburg Pennsylvania. Major Brenner was my quartermaster and in all this matter of taking supplies as we did sometimes — especially foraging through the country, he always gave (where these supplies were taken by regular authority so that they would be distributed among the army) — gave vouchers. I cannot give you any knowledge except the general impression I had in my mind, that Mr. Cossitt put, practically, everything he had at the disposal of the government. That is all I can say to you. That I understand to be the fact. I cannot give you any more direct information because that was all done by staff officers. The amounts of the claim or the articles taken I could not possibly give. I only know that whatever Mr. Cossitt had that was available for the government, we got.

Q. These letters are in your handwriting *[Showing witness letters filed as Exhibits.]*

A. Yessir.

Q. Were these four letters purporting to be signed by you, written and signed by you?

A. Yessir. I don't know precisely at what date Mr. Cossitt left. I cannot tell those things. He may have remained around Lagrange, because there were occasional troops kept along the line there. My impression is now that he went to Memphis and from Memphis he went to Chicago. As regards his property, I cannot give any more definite information than that whatever Mr. Cossitt had there that the government required, was at the disposal of the government.

Counsel:

Q. Did you understand that he had a large property down there?

A. Oh yessir.

Q. Where were your troops stationed — near what plantation, if you remember any name?

A. My division was quartered in Lagrange — that is, not in the town exactly. The town stands on a bold bluff looking down to the valley on the stream and we covered that stream — the bridges over it looking South, and looking also at the left flank so as to cover Grand Junction which was the junction of two railways.

Q. please state the number of troops under your command?

A. I must have had 7,500 men.

Q. How far did you extend from Lagrange out into the country — your own troops?

A. Well, we didn't reach out into the country that way. We sent expeditionary columns to exercise the men and to bring in forage from different directions — generally into Mississippi which lay just below us — that is, South, and sometimes off in other directions. But the troops were simply

quartered there. Before we occupied Lagrange we were for two weeks I think below Lagrange at a point called Davis' Mills. That was South of Lagrange.

Q. How far from the Mississippi line is Davis' Mills?

A. I think it is in Mississippi.

Q. What other commands were in that neighborhood at that time?

A. General Sherman had a division at Moscow 12 miles east of Lagrange on the railway — on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and General McClernand had a brigade which occupied Grand Junction a part of the time. Grand Junction is about three miles west from Lagrange. Sherman had about eight thousand troops and McClernand had a brigade down there under command of General Leggett — I think three regiments.

Commissioner Aldiss: There must have been 20,000 men?

A. Along that line! Yessir.

Counsel: Were you foraging upon the country at this time for your supplies?

A. For forage, yes. Foraging for the animals.

Commissioner Aldiss: Which would include corn?

A. Oh, certainly.

Counsel: And subsistence too?

A. For the men? I think not. That is not my recollection.

Q. You were taking horses and mules?

A. Oh yes, when necessary.

Commissioner Aldiss: There is quite a large charge for cattle.

A. I don't know what there is in the bill.

Q. Would it be likely that at that time any of these bodies of troops would require cattle?

A. Yessir, it might be. It was difficult for us to get fresh beef during the most of this time. Memphis had not yet been captured. I do not remember the precise date at which Memphis was captured. Our lines of supplies was either by wagon train from Corinth or by the northern railway leading up to Columbus. I remember now, that at one time I had my men on quarter rations — I cannot say how long a time, and on half rations for quite a time. That is simply to show the uncertainty of communications, and when we were on quarter or half rations I always drew from the country such supplies as we needed — bacon, vegetables, corn-meal and other things.

Q. Did you get any pork there?

A. Nosir, there was no pork in that country, it was all bacon. I do not know of any instance in which we took up hogs regularly.

Q. He has four or five hundred hogs charged?

A. I don't know about that. I don't know that we ever regularly took up hogs.

Q. Who was your Commissary?

A. Captain William W. Jackson was at that time. He is right here in the city. I think he would know. He lives in Washington. I have never known of their taking up any pork, or live hogs, but it may have been done. I cannot say. This column of Sherman's and mine was the pioneer column moving across that country on the way towards Memphis. We intended to

take Memphis in the rear, but the gunboats came down the river and cleaned out the front of Memphis and they all ran away and we moved in leisurely. We got into Memphis in August 1862. Our column moved in, and up until sometimes in August 1862 we were along that Lagrange road.

Counsel: Were there any other troops stationed there except the ones you have mentioned?

A. Yessir; troops followed me.

Q. Do you remember when your troops moved away from there?

A. Well, we got into Memphis about the 18th of August 1862, so that I suppose we must have left that Lagrange country somewhere in the neighborhood of the 10th of August. We moved leisurely across. It was terribly hot weather. I cannot tell what troops succeeded us; that I canot tell.

Q. You took Memphis at what time?

A. We entered Memphis with our troops (Lew Wallace took Memphis, you know) — Sherman's division and mine entered Memphis the 17th or 18th of August 1862.

Commissioner Aldiss: There were forces that came back to Lagrange in November of that year?

A. Oh yes sir. The line was never abandoned.

Counsel: What troops occupied that section of the country after you left?

A. I don't know what troops occupied it from that time until January 1863. In January 1863 I came back to Memphis and I took general command of the whole country extending from Memphis to Corinth. My own corps—the 16th—was stationed all along that line. General Sooy Smith commanded at Lagrange after I took command of the 16th corps, under me. General Jultte of Iowa also commanded there for a while but I could not tell you the details of the troops. I had 80,000 men there and I cannot remember them all.

Q. How about General Hamilton?

A. Hamilton was at Lagrange.

Q. Where does he live now?

A. He lives in Wisconsin. He is U. S. Marshall of the Southern and Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Q. How many troops did Hamilton have?

A. A division.

Q. About what number of men?

A. About six thousand men were in the division then.

Q. McPherson was there also?

A. Yessir.—I know that only by report. He was not a part of my command. That country was full of troops. You will see it was at the intersection of two railways. When General Grant made his movement down on Vicksburg overland, the troops all passed through there. I moved from Memphis in September 1862 with my division and established my headquarters at Bolivar, Tennessee about 30 miles, I should think, from Lagrange North – and commanded there until the latter part of December on the 1st of January 1863. I sent two expeditionary columns below during that time. It was at that time that the Price and VanDorn attack was made upon Corinth Oct 6

& 7, 1862. I marched my division across towards Corinth and passed within probably ten miles of Lagrange. After that I went back to Memphis under orders from General Grant, and he in January or February, moved all the disposable troops South on his march down through Holly Springs and along the Mississippi Central railway to attack Vicksburg in the rear, which march was broken up by the rebels coming in in his rear and cutting off his depot of supplies at Holly Springs. After that our line was re-established on this same Memphis and Charleston railway, and then it was that this General C. S. Hamilton was put on duty at Lagrange.

Q. Do you remember about that date?

A. I cannot tell you the date. When I received my order as commanding the 16th corps, General Hamilton became part of my command for the first time, and he was then at Lagrange. Lagrange was occupied permanently by troops all along after that as long as I remained in that region of country.

Q. General McPherson you understood at one time commanded at Bolivar. What I want to find out is if you know when his troops moved down to Lagrange?

A. Nosir. I never said that McPherson commanded at Bolivar.

Q. But I have been advised that such was the fact?

A. McPherson must have moved down to Lagrange as part of General Grant's column because my division was given to him and went through there.

(Case contiued)

3.3 Testimony of Richard McAllister, Esq.

[This document may be found in Images 85–86 and 535–536]

October 17, 1876

20459 Franklin D. Cossitt.

(Richard McAllister, Esq. Appeared as counsel for claimant.)

[Counsel moves that item 4 – 2625 bushels of corn taken from the field, be increased to 8900 bushels of corn taken from the field, upon the ground that exhibit No. 1 referred to in the petition, and filed with the petition, contains both the 2625 bushels and also 6275 bushels of corn, as the rate of 25 bushels to the acre; that item which is in exhibit number 1 filed was omitted by mistake from the petition.]

Richard McAllister sworn and examined by Commissioner Aldis:

Q. You may state with reference to that exhibit No. 1?

A. This Exhibit No. 1 referred to in the petition was filed by me as the attorney of record with the petition and made a part of the record as the petition itself shows.

Q. At the time the petition was filed?

A. Yessir, at the time the petition was filed. The item of 255 acres of corn contained in the exhibit was omitted in the petition by oversight, or clerical mistake.
Q. But was in fact in the exhibit No. 1 which was filed with the petition?
A. Yessir; it was in fact in the exhibit No. 1 which was filed with the petition.
Q. You therefore insist that it was a part of the original petition I suppose?
A. Yessir; that it was a part of the original petition. This exhibit is in the handwriting of the claimant and was furnished to me from which to base that part of his claim being for stores taken for the troops under General C. S. Hamilton.

3.4 Testimony of Edward M. Myrick

[This document may be found in Images 86–126 nad 536–576]

Edward M Myrick sworn and examined by Commissioner Aldis:
Q. What is your age?
A. I am 56 years old.
Q. Your residence?
A. In Tennessee in Fayette County.
Q. What part of the county?
A. I live in the western portion of the county near the Mississippi line.
Q. What is your Post Office address?
A. Lagrange, Tennessee. And I live at Lagrange, Tennessee.
Q. What is your occupation?
A. Farmer.
Q. How long have you lived at Lagrange?
A. Four years.
Q. Where did you live during the war?
A. At Mr. Cossitt's place 3 miles from Lagrange.
Q. Did you live on it throughout the whole war?
A. Yessir. I left there in 1870.
Q. Is that the place that is referred to here in the petition under the head of property taken by General C. S. Hamilton as property taken from the Myrick place?
A. Yessir.
Q. You lived there all through the war?
A. Yessir, I did. I own it now, but Mr. Cossitt owned it then.
Q. How large is the place?
A. There is about — nearly a thousand acres in the place.
Q. And there was the same amount then as now, during the war?
A. Yessir.
Q. How much was cleared and cultivated?
A. There was between four and five hundred acres under cultivation.

By claimant:

Q. Do you mean on the place that I sold you, or on my own place?

A. On the whole place. I bought 340 and there was 600 acres above that. And then we had some land rented above there.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. Did you carry on the place during the summer of 1862?

A. Yessir.

Q. Can you tell how much land on that place was cultivated in corn during the year 1862?

A. Yessir; about 400 acres on the place.

Q. How many hands did you have to cultivate it?

A. We had about 32 hands to work on the place, 32 names. We counted little and big there, we counted names.

Q. You had 32 working hands?

A. Yessir.

Q. Besides the land that was cultivated in corn how much was there in hay?

A. Well, we had about ten acres I reckon in hay.

Q. How much had you in wheat?

A. There was but little wheat raised on that place.

Q. Rye?

A. Some little rye and some little wheat. 7 or 8 acres of each.

Q. How much oats?

A. Fifteen or twenty acres in oats.

Q. How much in cotton?

A. We had nearly 200 acres in cotton.

Q. How much in potatoes?

A. We had two or three acres in potatoes. Sweet potatoes.

Q. Any other crops raised on the farm that year?

A. Nothing except the pea crop which we always plant between our corn.

Q. How many mules had you on the place?

A. We had 17 mules on the place.

Q. Who did they belong to?

A. They belonged to Mr. Cossitt. But there were two horses we have never said anything about. The horses I kept to ride all the time.

Q. Do you know anything about any mules having been taken by Gen. Hamilton or by any force under his command at any time.

A. Yessir; I was there at the time he took them.

Q. What was done and said?

A. Hamilton moved about a mile from my place to the Scott place. He made his Headquarters there and the troops from there came and took those mules, 10 at one time. I saw them. I was right at the gate.

Q. Was there any offciers with them, and how many soldiers?

A. Twenty or thirty soldiers and two or three officers.

Q. Who were the officers and what was their rank?

A. I cannot tell; they were from Lieuts up to Captains. A captain I think wore three stripes.

Q. What was done when the mules were taken?
A. I asked them if they had any orders to take the mules, and they told me it was none of my business, I would find out; and they carried them off.
Q. In what direction?
A. Over to Mr. Scotts, to the Headquarters.
Q. Did you see them at the Headquarters?
A. No sir; I didn't at that time.
Q. You didn't go with them?
A. No sir.
Q. Did you ever see them afterwards in the service of the Government?
A. Yessir; I saw them hauling up corn and everything of that sort from the plantations.
Q. Did you see them hitched in Government wagons, or how?
A. They were hitched in Government wagons.
Q. Did you know them?
A. Yessir; I did.
Q. Is it not easy to be mistaken in the identity of mules where there is a large number together?
A. No sir; not when a man has used them for many years.
Q. Where did they take them from, the stable or the field?
A. From the stable.
Q. Were the whole 10 in the stable?
A. Yessir; and more than that too.
Q. Were they taken from the stable by these officers?
A. Yessir.
Q. Didn't they say anything to you except it was none of our business?
A. No sir; nothing in particular.
Q. That was all the reply they made?
A. Yessir; they had had orders from Headquarters.
Q. They said they had orders from Headquarters?
A. Yes sir.
Q. They added that to that very uncivil expression?
A. Yessir; I don't know what was their object?
Q. Were these full grown mules?
A. Yessir.
Q. None of them old, unsound, or blind?
A. No sir; all good mules.What we call there No. 1.
Q. To whom did they belong?
A. To Mr. Cossitt.
Q. What season of the year was this that they were taken?
A. In the fall of 1862.
Q. What part of the fall; what month?
A. Sometime in October or November.
Q. Was any fodder taken?
A. Yessir.
Q. When, at what time, and how much?

A. That was taken about the same time the mules were taken.
Q. Did you see the fodder taken?
A. Yessir.
Q. Who took it?
A. The soldiers. The same regiment.
Q. Did they come with army wagons or carry it off on their horses?
A. They came with army wagons.
Q. How many army wagons?
A. I could not tell. They camped all over the whole plantation.
Q. Can you tell how many army wagons drew fodder?
A. No sir; I could not. Every day or two it was taken off; a dozen wagons or two, at a time. They were hauling all the time.
Q. I would like to have you tell us near as you can how much fodder was taken?
A. I know how many stacks were taken.
Q. Stacks of fodder or hay; which?
A. Both fodder and hay.
Q. How many stacks of fodder were taken?
A. I think about 50 stacks as near as I recollect.
Q. How much would there be in a stack?
A. About 1500 pounds.
Q. That would be about what?
A. About 800 bundles.
Q. That would be 75,000 pounds of fodder. Was any taken besides what was in the stacks?
A. Nosir.
Q. How many stacks of hay were taken?
A. Ten.
Q. How much was there in a stack of hay?
A. About 1500 pounds I think. About the same.
Q. Now was any corn taken from the field?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Did you see any taken?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Now tell how you saw it taken?
A. I saw them when they were in the field gathering it.
Q. Who gathered it?
A. Soldiers.
Q. Any officers with them?
A. Yes sir.
Q. How did they gather it; what did they put it into?
A. Governement wagons.
Q. Did you see that done?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Can you tell how many Governemnt wagons came there first and last to draw away corn?

A. No sit; they were right in the field, camped all ther time. They were camped all over this plantation.
Q. Did you say that the army was encamped on this very plantation?
A. Yes sir.
Q. And encamped in these fields of corn?
A. Yes sir; around the edges of the timbered land.
Q. About how many men were encamped there?
A. Well, a whole Regiment. A whole company was there.
Q. How large?
A. I reckon ten or fifteen thousand men and may be a hundred thousand.
Q. How long were they encamped there?
A. Gen. Hamilton, after he moved to my house – he staid there about 6 weeks.
Q. Had he been in camp before he came to your house?
A. Yes sir.
Q. How long before?
A. No more than four or five days, or a week before he came to my house.
Q. He then came to your house and encamped, as his headquarters, for about 6 weeks?
A. Yes sir.
Q. This corn was taken during that time?
A. Yes sir.
Q. How early did he come to your house, what month?
A. He came I think in October 1862.
Q. Now how much corn did they take from the field?
A. Well, I could not tell how much they took. There were about 400 acres in corn and there was only between 40 and 50 acres gathered.
Q. That would make about 350 or 360 acres that was not gathered?
A. Yes sir; 350 acres that the troops gathered.
Q. Did you say that they gathered it all clean or left a good deal?
A. They didn't leave very much when they left there.
Q. They did not take it as clean as a farmer would gather his own did they?
A. No sir; not as clean, but they gathered it pretty clean.
Q. What kind of land?
A. Some valley land and some upland.
Q. How much would it yield?
A. Five or six barrels to the acre.
Q. It would average 25 or 30 bushels to the acre you think?
A. Yessir; that is our average crop.
Q. You have to allow something for the coons and possums don't you?
A. No sir; I didn't have any of those there.
Q. Didn't you allow anything for the various depredations of animals or such things?
A. No sir; there was very few animals in that country after that. They put them all into pens — Beef cattle.
Q. Do you thinks the troops got as much as 20 bushels to the acre?

A. Yes sir; they must have got more than that.
Q. Did they take any out of the cribs?
A. Yes sir.
Q. How much?
A. Well, we had 3 cribs full of corn. 200 in one crib and about 150 in the others. But they didn't take that corn at the same time. General Hamilton's Headquarters were at my house. He protected that corn then.
Q. When did they take it?
A. When they fell back from Holly Srings about two or three weeks after.
Q. And how much did you say there was in the cribs?
A. Two hundred in one crib and 150 in the other cribs.
Q. That would make 500 barrels in all?
A. Yessir.
Q. Now the sweet potatoes; were any of those taken?
A. Yes sir.
Q. How many?
A. About 150 bushels.
Q. Did you see all this property taken that you have been speaking of?
A. Yes sir; I was right there all the time.
Q. How many hogs?
A. I think there were about 150 fattening hogs and about 200 stock hogs.
Q. Did you say that they were all taken?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Describe how they were taken?
A. They were shot down in the field and thrown into wagons and carried to camp.
Q. Was not there some parts of the bodies left in the field?
A. Yessir; some little parts of the bodies left, but not many. Where they would take out both ham and shoulders, some times, they would leave the head.
Q. And sometimes they would leave the sides?
A. Not often; but they would generally leave all the head though.
Q. Now beef cattle: any taken?
A. Yessir.
Q. How many?
A. Seventeen head.
Q. How do you know that?
A. Well, I kept account of them. There were more than that taken, but that is all I have put down.
Q. Did you put them down at the time?
A. Nosir; I kept them in my head. I cannot write. I have to keep my business in my head. You see I gave this to Mr. Cossitt at the time that occurred.
Q. Any brown sugar?
A. Yessir.
Q. How much?
A. About 250 pounds.

Q. And a half barrel of molasses?
A. Yessir; I think there was more than that.
Q. That is all there is as charged as taken by troops under Hamilton from the Myrick place. Do you know about property taken from any other place?
A. I didn't see them take it from any other places.
Q. What do you know about the Urquhart place. What connection did you have with that place if any?
A. I was looking over the place — attending to it.
Q. Was any other overseer besides yourself attending to it?
A. Yessir. Mr. Gilchrist.
Q. What is his first name?
A. Aleck, I think.
Q. Where is he living now?
A. He is now dead.
Q. How long ago did he die?
A. He has been dead 6 or 7 years.
Q. How large a place is the Urquhart place — the whole land; and then tell how much is cultivated?
A. There is between 1500 and 1600 acres.
Q. Now as to the Urquhart place; how much was cultivated?
A. Between 900 and 1000 acres.
Q. Did you go onto it in the year 1862?
A. Yessir; I went on it twice.
Q. When?
A. I was on it in August I think, before the troops came, and I was on it after Hamilton left my house. He left there sometime I think in December.
Q. Did you see any of the property taken from the Urquhart place by the army?
A. I didn't see them take anything, but I saw them with the mules afterwards. There were 22 of the mules.
Q. How did you know they were the same mules?
A. I was raised with them. I knew them just as well as I did my own.
Q. Had you ever worked them?
A. Yessir.
Q. How far was the Urquhart place from the Myrck place?
A. Six miles.
Q. How should you come to know these mules and work them, when you were not there but twice during the year and lived six miles off?
A. Why I was there before the war.
Q. Were these mules all there before the war?
A. Yessir; After I went to live with Mr. Cossitt in 1860 – on the different plantations all the time.
Q. Were you on the plantation in 1861?
A. Yessir.
Q. How much of the time?
A. Just passing over it and looking over it.

Q. You had no special charge of the mules there?
A. No sir; not at that time.
Q. You say before the war you had seen these mules?
A. Yessir.
Q. Hadn't he bought any mules or changed any off for about two or three years preceeding 1862?
A. These mules were bought in 1861.
Q. That would leave 32 mules then. Now how many mules did you see taken from the Urquhart place?
A. I didn't see any taken but I saw 22 of them afterwards.
Q. Where were they when you saw them?
A. In the Government wagons hauling rails to town from the Adam's place.
Q. To what town?
A. To Lagrange. They were hauling them through the camps.
Q. What month was it that you saw them?
A. It was the last of October.
Q. Did you see them more than once?
A. Yessir; several times; a good many times.
Q. Was your attention called to it by anybody at the time?
A. No sir. I was by myself riding from one plantation to the other.
Q. And you saw them pass in Government wagons?
A. Yessir.
Q. How do you know there were 22 of them?
A. I counted them.
Q. At the time?
A. Yes sir. I thought I would count them all, but I didn't find but the 22.
Q. Are you sure they weren't mules from other places?
A. No sir.
Q. It doesn't seem as though you had much knowledge of these mules?
A. I ought to have. I had noticed and known all those mules for several years.
Q. You weren't on the Urquhart place but twice in 1862?
A. But the mules were taken from one plantation to another all the time.
Q. What for?
A. This plantation we called the Adams plantation, we had to work that with different mules from the different plantations. It lay right between the two plantations.
Q. So that is the means you have of telling your knowledge of these mules. Now anything else from the Urquhart plantation besides the 22 mules?
A. No sir. Only I saw them hauling corn and things from there. I was on the road and I saw them in the field once also. I was there one time when they were hauling off the corn.
Q. How many wagons were there in the field then?
A. I could not say, there was a great many. I did not count them.
Q. But they were in the corn field on the Urquhart place?
A. Yessir.

Q. And that is all you know about the corn taken?
A. Yessir.
Q. Do you know how large the field of corn was?
A. Yessir; there were about 100 acres in that field they were in.
Q. Is that all the corn there was on the Urquhart place?
A. No sir.
Q. How much was there in all there?
A. About 600 acres in cultivation.
Q. Whether they took it all or not you don't know?
A. No sir.
Q. It was all taken this same fall of 1862?
A. Yessir.

[Counsel stated that all receipts for property taken was for property taken from the Myrick place.]

Q. Item 25. 19 mules?

[Counsel filed a letter to Captain Benner (marked Exhibit A) asking him for the original paper given to him by Mr. Cossitt of which Mr. Cossitt retained only a copy and which he filed before the Commissioners. Also Captain Benner reply (marked Exhibit B).]

Q. Items 26 & 27. 2 loads — 30 bushels of corn and 2 loads — 2000 pounds of fodder. Exhibit No. 26 of J. L. A. [Captain Cunningham's reply] Do you know anything about that receipt?
A. Yessir; he handed me that receipt.
Q. Who did?
A. I don't know the man. They would come and give me the receipts.
Q. You didn't know who the man who gave you the receipts was?
A. No sir; I know he was an officer of some kind belonging to the army. He would give me these receipts.
Q. How did you identify these two receipts he gave you?
A. I remember receipts given to me by the officer.
Q. But how did you identify that as one of the receipts that was given to you?
A. He handed it to me and I kept it.
Q. How did you know it was a receipt?
A. Well, he told me it was.
Q. You cannot read or write?
A. No sir; I cannot.
Q. Is there anything about the paper by which you can identify it as the paper which was given to you by the officer. If there is anything on that paper, point it out.
A. Well, I reckon that is the paper. I don't know that I can point it out. They would just give them to me.
Q. What makes you reckon it is the paper?

A. The papers were handed to me by the officers.
Q. What papers?
A. Receipts for corn and fodder they had taken. I never had the receipts, my wife had them.
Q. Can you tell how many receipts?
A. No sir; for they would come every day to give them to me.
Q. What did you do with these officers receipts?
A. I put them away until I saw Mr. Cossitt and then handed them to him. All the papers that were handed to me I handed to him.
Q. But whether this was a paper so handed to you, you cannot state?
A. I cannot tell anything more than all the papers were handed to me for receipts and I handed the papers over to Mr. Cossitt; and they told me when they handed them to me that the papers were receipts for corn and fodder.
Q. Two loads corn and fodder estimated at 30 bushels; that is, 15 bushels each load?
A. Yessir.
Q. So that that 2 loads made 30 bushels, or does it mean that each load was 30 bushels?
A. It must be the two loads; 15 bushels to a load.
Q. They could not carry 30 bushels to a load?
A. No sir; they would not carry 30 bushels to a load.
Q. Items 28, 29 & 30. You don't know anything about these receipt. You cannot say whether that is the paper that was handed to you or not?
A. No sir; Though it looks like it.
Q. Now Mr. Myrick, all the receipts which you received from officers and which you afterwards handed over to Mr. Cossitt, were they all for property taken from the Myrick place?
A. Yessir.
Q. They weren't for property taken from any other place?
A. No sir; not for property taken from any other place at all.
Q. Didn't these receipts cover some portion of the corn which you have already sworn was taken by soldiers from the Myrick place?
A. Yessir.
Q. The receipts cover the same property?
A. Yessir; cover some of the same corn.
Q. If any of the receipts were for corn —
A. The corn came out of the plantation — the Myrick place.
Q. And is a part of this you have sworn to as being raised on the 400 acres?
A. Yessir.
Q. A load of corn is 15 bushels?
A. Yessir; That is what they call it.
Q. For instance; Mr. Myrick, here is a receipt for property taken on 6th, 7th, & 10th days of November 1862 by Lieutenant Spring Quartermaster of the 26th Illinois Infantry by authority of Col.Loomis, as per exhibits 15, 16, & 17 and it is for 3 loads of corn and for 300 pounds of hay. Well, that hay

was some of the hay of the 10 stacks wasn't it, and that corn some of the corn out of the 400 acres?

A. Yessir.

Q. And so all through with these?

A. Yessir; and this fodder was the same thing.

Q. Now we will proceed to item 42, which you say has not been proved [to counsel?]

[Counsel: Yessir, it was not verified because I thought it was not sent over to the Treasury.]

Q. "Received of F. D. Cossitt one steer beef for the use of the United States Army. (Sgt.) Joshua Ricketts, 2nd Lieut. Co. C, Nov. 14, 1862." Look at that paper and see if you remember anything about the steer?

A. I can recollect the steer, but I don't recollect the paper.

Q. Do you recollect their taking a steer?

A. Yessir.

Q. Can you tell any of the circumstances?

A. Yessir; he was a large red ox. We used to work him in the wagons. He was very fat when they got him. I don't know what troops got him. He was drove off the plantation I know.

Q. Was he one of the 17 head of beef cattle?

A. No sir.

Q. Do you know where Gen. McPherson's troops were?

A. I know where they said they were.

Q. Where was that?

A. That was on the Urquhart place, not far from the river.

Q. Were they on the Urquhart place?

A. Yessir; on the Urquhart place.

Q. Did you ever go over there to McPherson's camp?

A. Not to his headquarters.

Q. Did you ever go over there to their camp on the Urquhart place while they were there?

A. No sir; I didn't; not at that time.

Counsel:

Q. State whether you ever furnished Mr. Cossitt soon after the property was taken with any statement of what was later on the Myrick place?

A. Yes sir; I gave him what were called receipts that were handed to me.

Q. In addition to these receipts did you furnish him with a statement of what property had been taken?

A. Yessir; I did.

Q. What did Mr. Cossitt do?

A. He wrote it down on a piece of paper just as I gave it to him, I reckon.

Q. Now look at this paper and say whether it looks like the paper he wrote down at the time?

A. Are there any lines drawn on that paper? Yessir; I should judge it was the paper from the looks of it.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. What do you mean by the lines; do you mean ruled?
A. Yes sir; I noticed in his writing that he was writing on ruled paper.
By Counsel:
Q. Now in this statement I notice there is mules here, that is on the Myrick place. How many mules were on that Myrick place altogether?
A. Seventeen head.
Q. What did you do with these 17 head; how many plows did you run?
A. We run 12, 14, or 15 plows.
Q. How many mules had you to each plow?
A. We had one to each plow.
Q. And you think there were 17 mules on the place altogether?
A. I know there was that number.
Q. These 17 mules that you spoke of being taken did you pursue these mules?
A. Yessir.
Q. Where did you go?
A. I went to Davis Mills – not for 3 or 4 days afterwards – Not until Gen. Hamilton came to my house.
Q. Did you get these mules?
A. No sir; but I saw them afterwards in the Governement service.
Q. Did you ever talk to Gen. Hamilton about the taking of theis property?
A. Yessir.
Q. You stated what mules had been taken?
A. I told him what had been taken and everything of that sort and he sent an officer with me to hunt up these mules.
Q. And you and the officer went to find them and could not get the mules?
A. Yessir. We went to Davis Mills. One of Gen. Hamilton's Staff went with me.
By Commissioner Aldis:
Q. These 17?
A. No sir; the ten that they took at that time.
By Counsel:
Q. You talked to gen. Hamilton about his troops taking the property. What did he say about it?
A. He said he was very sorry they were taking it, but it would be paid for; Mr. Cossitt would be paid for it.
Q. Now we have another statement here of of [sic] the property taken from the Urquhart place. You say Mr. Gilchrist was the superintendent of that?
A. Yessir.
Q. And you had the general superintendence of that place and the Myrick place and the Thomas place?
A. Yessir.
Q. Now state whether soon after the war Mr. Gilchrist furnished you any statement?
A. Mr. Gilchrist furnished me a statement in the time of the war.
Q. Was that statement in writing or verbal?
A. It was in writing.

Q. Did you furnish this to Mr. Cossitt?
A. Yessir; I did.
Q. What did he do with it?
A. He looked at it and put it in his pocket.
Q. Did he make a copy of it at that time?
A. No sir; I don't know that he did at that time. I don't think he had any paper; we were out on the plantation by ourselves. He said he would do it.
Q. Do you remember ever seeing this paper at all *[handing paper to witness]*?
A. No sir; I don't recollect that paper.
Q. The paper that you furnished Mr. Cossitt was in the handwriting of Gilchrist was it?
A. Yessir.
Q. It was a statement of what?
A. Of the property taken from the Urquhart place.
Q. Do you know how many mules they had on this Urquhart place; how many mules it took to run it. Was the place thoroughly stocked?
A. The place was thoroughly stocked; and we were working a thousand acres; that is, between nine hundred and a thousand acres and we calculate 3 mules to the hundred acres, but we always had to have mules over to put in if one got sick or crippled, which made it 32 , 32, or 33 mules on the place.
Q. You count 3 mules to a hundred acres?
A. yessir.
Q. Do you know how many mules were on that place?
A. My recollection is that there was 33 mules on the place; that is my best recollection now.
Q. You spoke of having seen afterwards 22 mules?
A. Yessir; I saw 22 mules afterwarrds.
Q. These 22 mules was the only property that you saw afterwards in the possession of the United States forces?
A. Yessir; the only property that I saw from that place.
Q. When you first went over there did you go over there before the troops came?
A. I was there before they came there and after they went from there. The first time when I went there it was all in good order.
Q. Did you see the fields of corn at that time?
A. Yessir. I went over with Gilchrist over both plantations.
Q. How many fields in corn did you see at that time?
A. We were over the whole plantation. It was fenced off into fields.
Q. There was some 600 acres I think you said?
A. Yessir; about that.
Q. Was any corn at that time taken into the cribs at all?
A. No sir; it was all in the field. That was in August.
Q. Were there any stacks of fodder there at that time?
A. No sir; they were pulling and stacking it at the time I was there. They had gathered the hay, but I don't recollect how many stacks there was of hay.

Q. Do you know how many hogs there was on the place?
A. No sir; I don't. The day I was over there they called the hogs up, but I don't think I saw more than a hundred. I think we counted about 100 or 150 they had; that I saw myself.
Q. Do you know anything about the cattle?
A. Yessir; I saw the cattle. They were in the fields.
Q. Was there a nice drove of cattle there?
A. Oh, yessir. I have seen them many times.
Q. There is 66 head recorded here; would that be right?
A. I reckon that is right. There might have been more or less. I could not say.
Q. How long have you known Mr. Cossitt?
A. I have been acquainted with him ever since 1855.
Q. You have known him since that time?
A. Ever since that time, yessir.
Q. From 1855 to 1861 at the breaking out of the war and down to the time the troops came, what was he considered; a Union man or a rebel?
A. He was considered a Union man so far as I ever heard. I never heard anything else.
Q. On the question of the State of Tennessee going out of the Union, did he vote the Union ticket or the Secession ticket?
A. He voted the Union ticket.
Q. Did you vote at the same polls together?
A. Yessir. He voted in the morning and I came in the evening. I asked him after I got there how he voted and he told me.
Q. Did you understand too from others how he voted?
A. Yessir; I understood it from lots of them.
Q. Did you have conversations with Mr. Cossitt from that time onwards?
A. Yessir; we have been in conversation all the time.
Q. How did he talk?
A. He always expressed himself as being a Union man.
Q. You remember about the time that McPherson's troops came into that country?
A. Yessir; very well.
Q. State whether you accompanied Mr. Cossitt to Bolivar, Tennessee, before the troops came down?
A. Yessir; we went to Bolivar together.
Q. Did Mr. Cossitt visit General McPherson's Headquarters then?
A. Yessir.
Q. Did you accompany him?
A. No sir; I did not accompany him to the Headquarters. I went to the Provost Marshal.
Q. In a few days after this did McPherson's troops come to Lagrange?
A. Yessir; in a few days, or maybe the next day.
Q. Did the troops capture and take possession of the whole country then?
A. Yessir.

Q. Did you ever get any receipts for any property taken off the Urquhart place?

A. Not a receipt except this one that I gave Mr. Cossitt of Gilchrist's. This is the only paper I ever got off that place.

Q. That paper — what kind of a looking paper was it?

A. It was wrote on a piece of white paper about that long and maybe that broad *[indicating]*. It was like the paper they use in candle boxes.

Q. Was it in good or bad handwriting?

A. He was a tolerable good writer; he was a man of education.

Q. Did you give that original paper to Mr. Cossitt or did you retain it?

A. I gave it to him. No papers came into my hands but what I gave to him. I know I did. I never kept any of his papers.

Q. Would all this Myrick place average about 25 bushels of corn to the acre?

A. Yessir.

Q. Is that a high average down there?

A. No sir; that is a low average for that place. It was in fine fix; a fine plantation; and a great deal of it valley land.

Q. Then 25 bushels to the acre would be a low estimate?

A. Yessir.

Q. How about the Urquhart place?

A. The Urquhart place is a good farm right on the river.

Q. Was it as good a place as the Myrick?

A. It is a heavier land; more stiff. Not so easy to cultivate as the land on the Myrick place; one is on one side of the river and the other on the other but the Myrick place is more sandy.

Q. How much cotton did you raise on the Myrick place that year?

A. About 150 acres.

Q. Did you get any of it?

A. We saved the most of it except what was injured by the troops.

Q. How was it injured; by camping on it?

A. Yessir; camping on it and running through it. You see they had a camp on the edges of the field and the woods.

Claimant:

I recollect Mr. Myrick gave me a paper, of things taken by Gilchrist. It was in very bad shape and dirty & I drew off a memorandum, and that is the memorandum which I drew. *[referring to the paper already in evidence.]*

Q. Is that an exact copy?

A. [Claimant] That is an exact copy.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. Of the paper which Gilchrist handed Myrick and Myrick handed you?

A. [Claimant] Yessir.

By Counsel [to witness]:

Q. Do you know where that original paper — that candle box paper is now?

A. I don't. It was in a very dilapidated condition.

Q. Do you know whether when you showed that paper to Gen. McPherson and he endorsed it there you had the other paper, the candle box paper, with you or not?
A. I don't think I did.
Q. And you don't know where that paper is?
A. No sir; I don't.
By Commissioner Aldis to Counsel:
Q. [Exhibit No. 1] This is the paper that Mr. Myrick says that Mr. Cossitt wrote down from his verbal statement from memory and it is from this paper that you made up the first 11 items here.
A. [Counsel] Yessir.
Q. Now why doesn't all the corn & fodder and hay that is mentioned in these subsequent receipts here embrace all these items?
A. [Counsel] If you will examine these items and the proof we prove more corn. We prove enough corn to cover the items and also the receipts.
Q. So that what you claim is that in as much as the verbal proof through Mr. Myrick and Mr. Cossitt all the corn taken over and above what is embraced in these receipts will fully come up to these first 11 item; you ought to have the receipts in addition?
A. [Counsel] Yessir.
Q. Now the point I want to make here in that connection is, what evidence is there that the receipts do not embrace all the corn they took, and why should they have given receipts for a part of the corn and not for the whole. I want Mr. Myrick to answer that question?
A. [Witness] I can answer that question. Some would come and take corn and give receipts and others would not. I would, may be, meet them in the field and they would say they would send the receipts too, but they never did. That was carelessness on their part to take anything and not receipt for it. It was done by thousands and thousands there. Some would come and give receipts you know.
Q. What do you think as to the proportion that was put into the receipts to the proportion that was not put into the receipts; which was the most?
A. Well, I think the more of the crop that was taken was not put into the receipts. That is my opinion about it.
Q. You think that for most of the corn and fodder and hay which was taken they didn't receipt?
A. Yessir; they didn't receipt.
Q. Now taking the Myrick place, do you say that all except 50 or 60 acres they took?
A. Yessir.
Q. They didn't take it as clean as a farmer would have gathered it himself?
A. No sir; not quite as clean.
Q. But on the whole would they get 20 bushels to the acre?
A. Yessir; they must have got more than that. They gathered it pretty clean.
Q. Now how do you know there was 400 acres?

A. Well, sir, it has been measured since then.
Q. How many fields were there of it?
A. Three.
Q. Can you give the measurement of the 3 different fields?
A. No sir; I cannot give the measurement of them.
Q. When was it measured?
A. Directly after I bought it from Mr. Cossitt.
Q. Do you own it now?
A. Yessir.
Q. You own the whole of the Myrick place?
A. No sir; I don't own the whole of the Myrick place. I own 640 acres of the whole Myrick place; the balance we have sold out to colored people.
Q. What did you get an acre for it?
A. Fifteen dollars.
Q. Any buildings on it?
A. Yessir; fine buildings on it.
Q. What sort of a house?
A. In the house that I occupied there are four or five rooms & it is painted up nicely. General Hamilton had his Headquarters in it.
Q. Two stories?
A. Yessir. General Hamilton occupied three rooms of the house.
Q. You gave $15 an acre. When did you buy it?
A. I bought it in 1867.
Q. Two years after the war was over?
A. Yessir.
Q. Is it worth more or less now?
A. It is worth less now. Land has gone down here.
Q. How much was it worth at the beginning of the war?
A. Worth about $20 an acre.
Q. And how many acres did you say there was of the Myrick place?
A. I own 640, but he owned about 900 acres.
Q. So that at $20 an acre it would be about $18,000?
A. Yessir.

By Counsel:

Q. You had the Myrick place at the time the troops came fully equipped with animals &c. Now what did you make a year off this place?
A. We made clear off that place every year I reckon $10,000 or $15,000 profit. He gave me $550 to look after that place myself.
Q. Now take the Adams place and the Urquhart place and all the other property; what was Mr. Cossitt's revenues a year from them?
A. Well, I expect he made about $30,000 a year clear over all expenses. He was the biggest planter we had in that country except one and he would have beat him in less than two years if the war hadn't come on.

3.5 Testimony of William Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 126–252 and 576–600]

William Cossitt (colored) sworn and examined.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. What is your age?

A. Well sir, about 41 or 42. Between that.

Q. Where do you live?

A. I live on Mr. Cossitt's plantation, in the State of Tennessee.

Q. Which plantation?

A. The Urquhart place.

Q. How long have you lived on the Urquhart place.?

A. I have been there about 20 years or more as near as I can come to it.

Q. Were you a slave?

A. Yessir.

Q. Who did you belong to?

A. First, I belonged to a man named Holer Hudgey. He sold me to Jack Bailey of Tennessee and Mr. Bailey sold me to Mr. Cossitt.

Q. How long were you the slave of Mr. Cossitt before the war broke out?

A. I think I was nearly 15 years.

Q. All that time were you on the Urquhart place?

A. Yessir; right on there.

Q. Did you hold any position or office on the plantation?

A. I attended to business for him.

Q. Were you overseer?

A. No sir; I was just what I call business man — seed to everything.

Q. Did they ever call you foreman or anything.

A. Yessir; I was a foreman.

Q. You don't read or write?

A. No sir; I cannot read or write.

Q. Are you a married man?

A. Yessir.

Q. How long have you been married?

A. I have been married some 10 or 12 years now.

Q. Before the war?

A. Yessir.

Q. Can you tell me how large a plantation this Urquhart place is?

A. It is about 1500 acres I think. It may be more; it is called that or more. It was going to be surveyed once, but they didn't do it; so that it has been called 1500 acres.

Q. How much is cleared and cultivated?

A. Before the war I think we worked about a thousand acres, nigh about it, in corn and cotton and peas sowed down in oats you know.

Q. Now do you remember the year during the war that General McPherson came there?

A. 1862, wasn't it?
Q. Yes, it was the second year of the war. Were you there when the army came there?
A. Yessir; I was right there.
Q. How many troops came there?
A. Well sir, there was two bodies of troops laid each side and we were right in the middle of them. They were all there.
Q. Were they on the plantation?
A. Yessir; they were on the plantation.
Q. On the cleared land or in the woods?
A. In the cleared land, in the woods and just camped.
Q. Who was the commanding officer?
A. I forget the General's name now. He laid over there at Balls Bridge.
Q. Was it McPherson?
A. Yessir; that is it.
Q. How many troops were there in your best judgement?
A. I think they said he had 40,000. I heard that, but I don't know whether that was so or not; that is just what I heard.
Q. Did they camp in the corn fields?
A. Yessir; they certainly did do that. They certainly camped in the fields, in the gin house and in everything.
Q. Did they trample down, run over and destroy corn?
A. Yessir.
Q. What proportion did they trample down, destroy and run over?
A. Well, Judge, I think they trampled and run over corn enough — well, about 150 acre field on the back side right in front.
Q. How many acres did you have in corn that year?
A. According to my weak judgement I can hardly tell now. I could not exactly say to give you the truth, but we had so much corn in that it looked like we never was going to work it, hardly, we had to get hands to work it.
Q. How many hands did you have on the place?
A. We had 52.
Q. How many field hands?
A. We run 25 hoe hands. Little chaps half grown some of them.
Q. Did you make as much as 400 acres of corn?
A. Yessir; it would make more.

[Mr. Myrick: There was about 600 acres in corn on that place on the Urquhart place]

Q. Now how much of that corn do you think that the troops — you saw them trample down 100 or 150 acres?
A. Yessir; what I call wasting it; dropping it along the roads at places they hauled.
Q. How much did they gather and draw off in their wagons?

A. There was two cribs — say three cribs — I am just putting two cribs that was full, and they averaged them 150 barrels to the crib – the two big ones, and the other one was more than half full. I never took much notice of that; and there was a ten rail pen that was full and they used up all that.
Q. How many barrels did they hold?
A. I don't know. It was not covered exactly. I never took much notice. It was a ten rail pen.
Q. It would not hold more than a quarter as much as a crib?
A. Oh, no sir.
Q. Or a tenth part perhaps?
A. No sir.
Q. And so if the crib held 150 barrels these ten foot pens would not hold over how many barrels?
A. Well, I could not tell. It was not finished any how, but it was a heap higher than I could reach.
Q. Would it hold 20 barrels?
A. Yessir, I should judge it would well.
Q. That would be towards 400 barrels of corn that were in the cribs and pens on the place?
A. Yessir.
Q. Now was all that corn was in the cribs and pens on the place taken by the army?
A. Yessir; taken by the army.
Q. You had already gathered it before the army came?
A. Yessir; and put it in them places.
Q. So that there would be really something like 2000 bushels of corn in cribs that was taken by the army?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Now was any taken from the fields?
A. Yessir. After they used up all in the cribs and never left us any from all the cribs, then they took their wagons and went to the field and gathered with their quartermaster with them, the one that I call quartermaster was with them, and the wagons would break down under the loads and they would drop it in the swamps and sometimes it would lay there two or three days.
Q. How many wagons did you ever see gathering corn in the fields?
A. In the first dash there was five wagons at one time gathering corn and carrying away fodder?
Q. How long were they gathering corn and carrying away fodder?
A. It was off and on there for two or three weeks. They didn't pull steady. They would sometimes take one load after they got the first and then may be they would not come until the last of the week perhaps.
Q. How many were the most wagons that you ever saw at one time gathering corn in the field?
A. Well, Judge, I don't know hardly it has been so long.
Q. Your best judgement?

A. I know I have seen as many as six at a time in the field after the corn give out in the cribs. I started to take notice and then I didn't notice after that. They told me I need not be in any way uneasy, that Uncle Sam was good for it and would pay my boss.
Q. Do you think they actually gathered out of the field (mind you I am not talking about cribs but only field) — Do you think they gathered so as to clear and gather corn from 200 acres?
A. Yessir. I do. I certainly do think that I believe that.
Q. Did they gather corn every day?
A. Some days they came two days at a time and some days may be about the last of the week; and they was all the time coming and going & wagons running I cannot hardly tell you.
Q. Was there any day that they didn't gather corn from the field?
A. They gathered most every day just like a man was going to the spring for water every day backwards and forwards and it was at the Gin house. They would feed every time they came out there — feed their horses there.
Q. Was there any cavalry camped in or around these fields — horsemen?
A. Yessir.
Q. How many?
A. I could not tell you to save my life.
Q. Was there a regiment?
A. Yessir; more than that; because one day across the field it was darkened with cavalry; that is certainly so. I saw them when they first came up. They came up there and I didn't see much after that I gave everything up I gave them fodder or anything I had.
Q. Do you know anything about any fodder there was there; that is the corn fodder the blades which were pulled off from the corn?
A. I understand you.
Q. Had you gathered any fodder that fall?
A. Yessir.
Q. As early as October?
A. Yessir.
Q. How much?
A. We gathered 55 stacks of fodder; and double stacks too at that.
Q. Well, how much was there in a stack?
A. Well, I have never been able to set it down. I cannot read or write.
Q. Well, you know how much that there is in a stack?
A. Well, a double stack ought to call for 500 bundles in a stack.
Q. How much would a bundle weigh?
A. A bundle will weigh two pounds and a half. Ten bundles is the way we sell it.
Q. Ten bundles would weigh how much?
A. I forget now how much. A dozen bundles would weigh ten pounds. I disremember now what it would weigh, but I know it weighs a pound and a half to the bundle if it is tied up right.
Q. How many bundles were there put in a stack?

A. Well, there ought to be 500 or 550; and some they put 600 in.
Q. Now is that a double or a single stack?
A. That is a double stack. We don't allow any single stacks for the fodder.
Q. Now how many stacks of hay had you?
A. Well, I believe as near as my judgement goes, I think there was 15 or 16 stacks of hay and pea vines, but it was hauled in such a way before they hauled it away that I didn't pay much attention to it.
Q. Do you mean to say that it was not worth anything?
A. It was worth something.
Q. You say there were 15 or 16 stacks of hay and pea vines?
A. Yessir.
Q. That was all, was it?
A. Yessir.
Q. You have 53 stacks of hay and pea vines charged here?
A. Well, it must be this 5 stacks of blue grass in the bottom that they got in there.
Q. How much was there there?
A. Five stacks of blue grass.
Q. Then that would make 15 or 16 stacks of hay and pea vines and five stacks of blue grass. Would that be all?
A. Yessir; all I know anything about.
Q. How many mules did you have on that Urquhart place?
A. Thirty mules.
Q. How many were taken by the army; and did you see them taken?
A. Yes sir; I saw them all taken. They all went from there.
Q. You must testify to what you saw and not what you heard. Now tell me how many mules you saw taken?
A. The first draft in the morning, they came in with wagons and got corn and fodder and they took if I ain't mistaken a quartermaster (I cannot thing [sic] of his name now) he was on the ground and he took the saddle mule. He caught her first and then drove up seven more in the lot and taken them all.
Q. They and the saddle mule would make eight?
A. Yessir; they would make 8. They went off with them & took the gears with them and some they hitched in to pull the corn away. I went to town to let the boss know and when I came back they had drove up the balance of the mules from the big long stable about 50 feet long and I said to them are you going to take all the mules and he said yes, clean them all up; they are Uncle Sam's mules. And they took them all.
Q. How many did they take this last time?
A. That is the time they cleaned them all up.
Q. Did you count them then?
A. No sir; I didn't. There were 30 mules in all; I declare to that. Thirty mules we kept at the farm.
Q. Eight the first time abd the rest the second time?
A. Yessir.

Q. They didn't leave you a single mule?
A. No sir; not a single mule.
Q. Were any of these mules young?
A. The most of them were young mules; yessir.
Q. How young?
A. In the fall before, he went up to Tennessee and brought down 5 or 6 there. 3 & 4 years old.
Q. Weren't any of them younger than 3?
A. The oldest mule we had was about six or seven.
Q. Didn't you have some as young as two years old?
A. Yessir; we did; we raised two. These young ones; they took them away.
Q. Two of the mules weren't over two years old?
A. Yessir; they hadn't been bridled.
Q. They weren't suitable to work were they?
A. Yessir; they were full grown.
Q. But you hadn't used them?
A. No sir; they were not broken. That is what I mean.
Q. And the rest were older?
A. Yessir.
Q. Were any of them unsound?
A. Not of that crowd.
Q. Any of them blind?
A. There was not a blind mule on that place.
Q. Any lame?
A. No sir; neither a one lame.
Q. Of these 30 mules all were sound and fit to work?
A. Yessir; clear footed mules.
Q. They were sound and fit to work and broke to use except these two young ones?
A. Yessir.
Q. Do you know what he gave for these mules that he brought from Tennessee the five or six?
A. No sir; I don't know, but I heard that you could not buy mules down there less than $150 or $200. Good plow mules for any service, serviceable.
Q. How many hogs did you have in the place. I don't mean stock hogs, but fat hogs. This was in October or November and the hogs were being fattened I suppose, but you kill along in December don't you?
A. Yes sir.
Q. About Christmas or just before?
A. Yessir.
Q. Now how many hogs had you that you were feeding; fattening hogs.
A. Well, I put up down there at the Urquhart place 250 hogs. Well there was some under age, but we let them run into the pen, but there was 200 head of hogs that were good hogs to kill. That is what we generally killed.
Q. Did you say there were 200 fat hogs?
A. Yessir; fat, or what I call fat.

Q. How many of them do you suppose the army got?
A. They got them all.
Q. How did they get them; shoot them?
A. Yessir; shot them down.
Q. Didn't they treat them pretty savage?
A. They treated them mighty bad I reckon.
Q. Didn't they use to leave a part of them on the earth?
A. Sometimes they would leave the skin; that is all they left; just the skin and head.
Q. Wouldn't they leave any sides?
A. No sir; they would just take it right up.
Q. What would they do with it?
A. Some they had wrapped up in the clothes and some put them on the corn and some took them right across the horses.
Q. And carried them off to camp?
A. Yessir; off to camp.
Q. How many stock hogs, pigs and such kind of trash had you?
A. The whole lot together we raised on that place was 500 head: pigs and little pigs and all.
Q. Anything that you would call good stock hogs that you were not going to kill?
A. We would have about 200 or 150. Well, say 175, for perhaps some of them may be would die out.
Q. How do you know about these hogs; did you take care of them?
A. Yessir.
Q. You yourself took care of them?
A. Yessir; I did. I attended to them every morning and every night.
Q. Did you feed them yourself?
A. Yessir; I fed them myself.
Q. Didn't you have other men to do the work for you?
A. Do the work for me! No sir. I fed them myself. I attended to them myself.
Q. Do you know anything about the cattle?
A. Yes sir.
Q. You didn't attend to them yourself did you?
A. Yessir; I looked after them myself and salter them myself.
Q. Did you milk the cows?
A. No sir; I didn't milk them; I had two milk maids.
Q. How many cows did you milk?
A. Sometimes 15 or 16.
Q. But at this time in October or November when the army came there?
A. When the army came there we were milking 19 head of milch cows.
Q. What became of these 19 head?
A. Carried to the slaughter pen.
Q. Good milch cows carried off to the slaughter pen?
A. Yessir.

Q. How many cattle did you have in all there?
A. Ninety head of cattle in all.
Q. They haven't got but 66 charged; what became of the rest?
A. Well, there was 90 head of cattle, that is sure.
Q. I should like to know how you could remember there was 90 head?
A. How I can remember? Well, I can remember that I have got my thumbs on my hands.
Q. Well, it's a different thing about cows and cattle?
A. I had them there to attend to and I suppose that was my business and I was regular to do it as you are to sit down here writing with your pen.
Q. Ninety head.
A. Yessir; 90 head of cattle.
Q. Of course you didn't count them did you?
A. I expect I ought to have counted them to attend to my business if I had business to attend to.
Q. Now the question is this I don't want to deal unfairly with your memory but still I want to know how you came to remember?
A. Well, I kept it in my mind: if I does anything like that I keep it in my mind and once in a while I go back and look over it, what I done as near as I can, but I ain't been doing it regularly like I used to do it. When I was tending to business I kept all these things perfect in my mind so that I should not be bothered. After I laid down nights I would be studying over it.
Q. Two milk maids milked 19 cows; one ten and the other nine?
A. Yessir; and we just made butter by the wholesale: plenty of milk.
Q. It is a pretty good lot of cows to have a milk maid milk 10 cows isn't it?
A. No sir; that ain't nothing down there.
Q. How did it happen now if you had 90 cattle that they haven't charged but 66?
A. I don't know how that is: but there was 90 head of cattle down there, what I call cattle — from that size up *[indicating]* I call cattle.
Q. They have got it here 50 cattle, 10 cows and 6 calves. That would take everything from that size up wouldn't it?
A. Well, I don't know how that is.
Q. Do you know anything about your having any corn meal when the army came there?
A. Yessir.
Q. Can you tell how much?
A. No sir; I could not tell.
Q. Any salt?
A. Yessir; they always kept a plenty of salt.
Q. Do you remember how much?
A. No sir; I cannot exactly remember how much salt now.
Q. Nor anything about any dried fruit, peaches or anything?
A. I don't know how much there was, but I know we always dried a large quamtity every year.

Q. Now how much land did you plant in sweet potatoes?
A. We put in about — I think that is the calculation Mr. Gilchrist said he wanted to put in — about 6 or 7 or 8 acres; between that somewhere.
Q. How much had you used at the time the Yankees came; of potatoes?
A. We hadn't used any of them.
Q. Hadn't dug any?
A. We had dug about half of them and put them up.
Q. How many bushels do you suppose there was in these six acres. How many bushels would you raise to the acre, to average them?
A. I could not say exactly to be right. That is a part I never looked into.
Q. Have you any idea at all?
A. An acre of ground makes a right smart of potatoes; from 200 to 275 bushels I think to the acre.

[Mr. Myrick: that is a light crop of potatoes]

Q. What! 275 bushels?
A. Yessir; that is a light crop of potatoes. I have seen 6 potatoes make a bushel in our country by weight. They would weigh 56 pounds.]

[Mr. Cossitt: I should consider 100 bushels a very poor crop. It depends entirely on the season and the land. You take a rich sandy piece of land and cultivate it well in sweet potatoes, get them seeded early and the ground is literally full of potatoes; it is wonderful how they do produce. They grow very large. You take the yam potatoe — they grow almost as large as a person's head. I know I made it a point form many years before the war to raise these things in superabundance some years it was a very fine thing for me if the cotton crop was poor or the price of cotton was low.]

Q. I see that you have got charged here for some gear; how many sets of gear had you there?
A. We worked 30 mules single and there ought to be 30 pair of gear.
Q. A set of gear would be for 2 horses?
A. Yessir; that is the way we count them.
Q. Do you know how many sets they had?
A. I never put them together. I just count by the number; that is, what I count for one horse.
Q. Do you know anything about how much they were worth?
A. No sir.
Q. Did you ever see these 8 mules that was first taken and the 22 that was taken afterwards. When they were taken did you ever see them again?
A. Yessir; I saw two or three of them.
Q. Where?
A. In Lagrange.
Q. How far was that from the Urquhart place?
A. About two miles and a half.

Q. What were they doing up there in the village?

A. They had them hauling wagons. They hitched one to a wagon when they were hauling corn. The Quartermaster took the riding mule and put his saddle on and kept it. I saw it twice I believe since the surrender.

By Counsel:

Q. How many plows had you running at the Urquhart place?

A. Twenty-five plows.

Q. And each one of these plows had one mule?

A. Yessir.

Q. And then besides these 25 you had a few surplus?

A. Yessir.

Q. You feel certain you had 30 mules?

A. Yessir; I feel certain about that.

Q. You say about 150 acres of this land in the field was damaged and trampled down by the troops?

A. Yes sir; I think so.

Q. And you say there was a thousand acres of land altogether cultivated?

A. Yessir.

Q. Was more than half of that thousand acres in corn?

A. Yessir; it was.

Q. Was there 600 in corn do you think?

A. Yessir; I think there was.

Q. There was more than half anyhow?

A. Yessir.

Q. Well, how much do you think this land would raise to the acre in corn?

A. Well some of our land has been averaging five and a half barrels, and some average more according to how the corn grows and the season.

Q. Would it all average 5 barrels say?

A. Yessir; it would average that I know.

Q. Was all this corn taken from the fields except what was trampled down?

A. Yessir; every bit. They never left anything. I left after everything left. There was nothing there to eat in the smoke house and I came to town and told them there was nothing there to eat.

Q. These stacks of hay and pea vine in the field — you have a better recollection of the number of mules on the place than you would have of the stacks of hay pea vines?

A. Yessir.

Q. Have you any definite recollection of the number of stacks?

A. I think they got nearly all the stacks.

Q. You have a better recollection of the number of mules than you have of the stacks in the field?

A. Yessir.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. They call Mr. Cossitt a secessionist don't they?

A. Yessir; that is what they call him.

Q. That is what the people call him?

A. Yessir. But he was a Union man, but he doesn't allow it to be known; but when the army came there he left.

By Counsel:

Q. Suppose he had staid there when the Federal army went away?

A. He would not have got a chance to come here to see you.

Q. They would have killed him?

A. Yessir. He would not have had a chance to come here and see you.

By Commissioner Aldis:

Q. Did you pass for a rebel too?

A. No sir; I just went along so they didn't bother me much. I heard the threats they put out before he went away.

By Counsel:

Q. Were any of Mr. Cossitt's servants in the Union army?

A. Yessir; nearly all of them.

Q. Did he ever try to prevent them?

A. No sir. He told me it would happen five years before it happened. I told him it would not be so. He told me I would be free after a while. I told him no it would not be so. I told him I didn't expect to live to see it, and he said if you die it will be so anyhow, and you will come to see the day that your children and my children will play together. He told me that five years before, but I didn't believe it.

[Affidavit of Gen. Hamilton filed.]

[Counsel stated that triplicate accounts for plows, plow points and plow molds amounting to $2343. were approved for payment by Gen. U. S. Grant & were filed for payment April 23, 1868 and paid by the accounting officers of the Treasury after a full investigation as to Mr. Cossitt's loyalty. The original papers are in the Third Auditors office now.]

[Case closed and submitted.]

Chapter 4

Depositions

4.1 Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt (22 Jan. 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 246–249 and 693–696]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Franklin D. Cossitt being duly sworn deposes as follows: I am 54 years of age. I reside in Chicago Illinois. And am a Merchant. Before the War and up to April 1863 I resided in Fayette County Tennessee. After the aforesaid date I moved with my family to Chicago Illinois, where I have resided ever since. I owned 3 plantations in Fayette County Tennessee. Known as the Myrick, Urquhart and Adams plantations. The Myrick Plantation comprised about 1000 acres. 300 acres in timber the balance was cleared. 640 acres was under a good Rail fence. The plantation was always worked to itsutmost capacity. The "Urquhart" plantation comprised 1500 acres of land, 1000 acres cleared. Almost all this plantation was under a good fence. The Adams place comprised 306 1/2 acres of land about 60 acres was cleared. All this plantation was under a good fence. It lay along the Wolf River bottom and was very fine land. These plantations were all well stocked with the best of everything necessary to run plantations in the South – and were worked to their utmost capacity.

After I left La Grange in April 1863, I did not run these plantations untill after the War. Since which time I have sold them on Title Bonds. While I owned all these plantations I had a large Store in La Grange Tenn and devoted my time attending to my Store. I occasionally visisted my plantations but left their management to my overseers. I saw very little of my property actually taken by the United States Troops for the reason that I did not visit my plantations often after the Federals occupied La Grange. I made out my claim from memorandums and receipts handed me by the

different overseers on the plantations, and believe that these memorandums and receipts represent less property taken than what was actually taken.

The Rails I have added to my claim on information since obtained. I did not include the Rails when I made out my claim before the Southern Claims Commission for the reason that I understood that Rails would not be paid for under the law.

I was loyal to the United States Government from the beginning to the end of the War. I took the oath of allegiance shortly after the Federal occupation of La Grange Tenn. I think I have got a copy of my oath and will produce it if still in my possession and make it an exhibit to my Deposition. I took the oath of allegiance voluntarily of my own free will and accord and I kept it unviolate. I believe that all my property was taken for the actual use and benefit of the Federal Army and that the amounts and prices are reasonable and just.

Franklin D. Cossitt

Subvouched and sworn to before me by Franklin D. Cossitt to me personally known and whom I certify to be a respectable and worthy citizen and entitled to credit, and I further certify I have no interest whatever in his claim.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 22nd day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr
Notary Public of
Fayette County, Tennessee
State of Tennessee
Fayette County

4.2 Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt (22 Jan. 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 155–157]

Washington, D. C. Oct. 17. 1876.
State of Tennessee
County of Fayette

Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County Franklin D. Cossitt, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the County of Cook, and State of Illinois; that the annexed account is correct and just; that he has made no charge therein for damages, or for losses sustained by thefts, or depredations committed by troops; that the stores, as above enumerated, were taken from him in the County of Fayette, and State of Tennessee, on or about the 1st to 30th day of

November, 1862, by Genl C. S. Hamilton, James B. McPherson and others for the use of, and were used by the United States army; that the value thereof was Ten Thousand and eighty two 00/100 dollars, which amount he claims under Act of July 4, 1864, and hereby makes application for the same; he further says that [blank] receipt or voucher has been received therefor that no payment has been made, or compensation received in any way, or from any source whatever, for the whole or any part of said claim; that it has not been transferred to any persons whomsoever; that the rates or prices charged are reasonable and just, and do not exceed the market rate or price of the stores at the time and place stated; that [blank] and I, Franklin D. Cossitt do solemnly, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President, made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by the decision of the Supreme Court. So help me, God.

And I hereby constitute and appoint Richard McAllister Esq. Of Washington, DC, my true and lawful Attorney irrevocable, with full power of substitution, for me and in my name, place and stead, to prosecute this claim, hereby annulling and revoking all former Powers of Attorney or authorizations whatever in the premises, and to receive and receipt for any draft or certificate to my order that may issue in payment thereof.

Franklin D. Cossitt
Signature of Claimant

The United States

To Franklin D. Cossitt Dr.
Name of Claimant

For 100 Bus sweet Potatoes @ $1.00	150.00
150 Fat Hogs=22,500 Pds @ 10 cts a Pd	2,250.00
17 Beef Cattle 600 Pds each 10200 Pds @ 7 cts	714.00
250 Pds. Brown Sugar @ 16 cts	40.00
20 Galls Molasses @ $1 per Gall	20.00
100 Stock Hogs @ $5 each	500.00

This property was taken by troops under command of Genl. C. S. Hamilton U.S. Vols from 1st to 30th November 1862 from claimants plantation "Myrick Place"

150 Fat Hogs=22500 pds @ 10 cts	2,250.00
100 Stock " worth $5.00 each	500.00
50 Cattle $40 each 10 cows @ $30 6 calves @ $10	2360.00
25 bus Corn meal @ $1 per Bus	25.00
2 Sacks Salt @ $10 per Sack	20.00
13 Bus Peaches @ $1 per Bus	13.00
1200 Bus Sweet Potatoes @ $1.00	1200.00

Taken from claimants place known as "Urquhart Plantation" by troops under command of Genl McPherson from 1st o 30th November 1862.

1 Steer worth	40.00

This property was taken 14th Nov 1862 by Joshua Ricketts 2nd Lt Co "C" Brig Regt of the West "See Exhibit 20"

Total Amount of Claim =	10,082.00

Note written in margin:

See the separate affadavits of Edward M Myrick, Harrison Cossitt and William Cossitt as to the taken and loyalty of claimant in place of the usual affadavit, here inserted in the petition; also affadavits of Newitt Harris et als and the Certificate of Maj. Gen. McPherson and others.

4.3 Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt (27 Apr. 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 159–164, 196–202, 606–611 and 643–649]

State of Illinois
County of Cook
City of Chicago

Franklin D. Cossitt of said City and County being by the undersigned a Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County being duly sworn deposes and says in answer to the letter of the Quartermaster General of the 13th Instant in explanation of the delay in presenting his claim for Stores and Supplies taken by the United States Army during the recent Rebellion that deponent was born on the 19th day of Sept 1821 at Granby in the State of Connecticut.

That at the breaking out of the late Rebellion he was a citizen of La-Grange in the State of Tennessee where he went to reside about the year 1831. That he was opposed to secession and did all that he could to keep the State of Tennessee in the Union; that deponent with other Union men in Tennessee had to submit to superior force and the State was carried into insurrection and rebellion in spite of them; that deponent was a large property holder as will be seen by the evidence in this case and that he could not get out of the State when the war broke out without sacrificing all of his possessions; that he quietly awaited the approach of the United States Troops, and when he he heard of the arrival of Major General Joseph B. McPherson in the State of Tennessee with his Army Corps, deponent went to him

and met General McPherson at Bolivar in the State of Tennessee about the day of November 1862. When deponent gave Geeral McPherson full information as to the state of the Country and as to the disposition of Rebel Troops, and did what he could to make his march to LaGrange successful; and deponent says that from the time of his first acquaintance with General McPherson until the day of the Generals death deponent enjoyed the full confidence of that General as may be seen by the Letters and Certificates of General McPherson on file in this Case; that the property of deponent was taken from his three plantations near LaGrange while deponent was a resident of LaGrange; that deponent got what receipts of property taken he conveniently could get and Certificates as to his loyalty from the various Federal Generals in Command with some memorandums from the parties occupying his plantation, which are all duly filed in this case.

Deponent further says that in 1863 and just as soon as he could make arrangements to get away he sold out what personal property he could dispose of and removed to the City of Chicago where he has since continued to reside; deponent further says that when he left Tennessee he understood that there wasn't remedy for his losses; that no tribunal would be provided for theit adjustment before the end of the war; that Tennessee was regarded by deponent as an Insurrectionary State and deponent never was advised that any Tribunal had been Provided fr the settlement of any claims in the Insurrectionary States except such as were supported by vouchers given by proper officers, and where the property had been duly accounted for until after the passage of the Act of March 3d 1871 when soon after he was advised that he could do so, he filed his claims for stores and supplies taken by the Federal Army and not accounted for before the Commissioner of Claims appointed and which he did about February 1873 and the claim is numbered 20,459 in the Records of said Commission; this claim the deponent withdrew from the jurisdiction fo said Commission when he learned that he would be obliged to bring all of his witnesses at great expense to testify before said Commissioners and that the Army General had decided that all claims from the State of Tennessee for Stores and Supplies taken for the use of the United States Army could be filed before the proper Departments of the United States Government, (The Commissary General having previously declined taking jurisdiction of such claims and the jurisdiction of the Quartermaster General being doubtful) where they could be examined and decided without the most ruinous expenses to claimant.

Deponent further says that his seeming delay in filing these claims or in procuring the information that he could file them may be partially accounted for from the fact that he had removed from Tennessee in the midst of the war, and had settled in Chicago where he was engaged in a large and flourishing business and which was not interrupted until the great fire which occurred in Oct. 1871 when deponents valuable business property situated on the corner of Randolph and Michigan ave was entirely destroyed and when in looking about for ways and means, his Tennessee claims were remembered and steps taken for their presentation.

Deponent further says that in 1868 upon learning that upon Vouchers issued by proper officers for Stores and Supplies taken in the late Insurrectionary States and when the property had been duly accounted for — that such claims would be considered; he filed a claim before the proper bureau for Ploughs Plough points and plough molds amounting to the sum of $2343 00/100; this claim was supported by triplicate vouchers and the purchase was authorized by Major General U. S. Grant and the claim was allowed as filed by Treasury Draft Number 2252 on War Warrant No 2092 about the 29th of July 1871 more than three years after the same was filed. In this last the Loyalty of the deponent was in issue and was established to the satisfaction of the Accounting Officers of the Government. All papers connected with this case will be found on file in the office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury and deponent refers to them to show that his loyalty was established in this case referred to and also to show that he was under the impression that claim was filed that the only claims from the Insurrectionary States which would be considered by the Government were such as were supported by vouchers Certfified to by proper officers and where the property taken had been duly accounted for.

Deponent further says that from April 1868 to July 1871 he waited patiently for the Consideration and decision of Claim referred to and was under the impression that the Government never meant to pay anything as it took over three years to settle a claim so well supported and approved by the Commanding General of the United States Army. In 1873 when he found that he had a proper Tribunal to consider his claim for Stores and Supplies taken but not accounted for he filed the same before the so called Southern Claims Commission as soon as he could get them in shape.

Deponent further says that in this case he has filed all the evidence he deems necessary to establish his claim and he now desires his Attorney to nitify the Quarter Master General of the fact and that he submits the case thereon.

Deponent has not filed any special evidence as to the value of the Stores and Supplies taken from him such as Mules, Corn, etc. As he is advised that the Quarter Master General has a fixed value in the State of Tennessee at the time and place at which they were taken. He therefore learns the question of value to be decided under the rules.

Deponent directs notice as to the value of the Corn suggested in some of the receipts filed from Officers in this case at (25¢) Twenty-five cents per bushel as being entirely below the market price when taken.

These receipts were taken as given and claimant in the hurry of war movements had no remedy.

Deponent has every Confidence in the justice of his claim and in his own Loyalty and he therefore prays the Quarter Master General to send a reliable Agent to investigate the claim on the Spot where it occurred and to take the testimony of all persons cognitant of the fact in this case.

Franklin D. Cossitt

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of April 1876.

Jacob Gross
Clk Circuit Ct Cook Co Ills.

District of Columbia
County of Washington

I, Richard McAllister Jr., being a Notary Public in and for the said District duly Commissioned and sworn, do hereby Certify that the foregoing affidavit of Franklin D. Cossitt is a true copy of the original affidavit this day filed before the Quarter Master General U.S.A. In the claim of said Franklin D. Cossitt No. R 292 for Qr. Mr. Stores and Supplies taken from the said Cossitt during the recent rebellion.

La Grange in the State of Tennessee

As witness my hand and official seal this second day of May, A.D. 1876

R. McAllister Jr.
Notary Public

Note on back of last page above:

Affadavit of Franklin D. Cossitt of Chicago, Illinois in reply to the request of the Quarter Master General contained in his letter of the 13th of April 1876. Accounting for the delay in presenting and filing this claim with other facts.

Filed by Richard McAllister of Washington, D. C. Attorney

4.4 Deposition of Charles S. Hamilton (15 Oct. 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 170–173 and 617–620]

State of Wisconsin
County of Milwaukee

Charles S. Hamilton being duly sworn deposes and says. That he is at present Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Residing at Milwaukee in said state: That in the Autumn of 1862 and winter and spring of 1863, he was a Major General of Volunteers in the United States Army. And in command of the South Wing of the Army of the Tennessee commanded by Gen Grant. That in said autumn of 1862, he made his head quarters at the farm house on a plantation of F. D. Cossitt near Lagrange Tenn. And that a portion of the forces under his command, to wit — the Division of Brig. Gen. D. S. Stanley was encamped on the said plantation.

That deponent is informed and believes that said plantation contained over one thousand acres, and that at the time of its occupancy as above was duly & well stocked for working purposes, & with due proportion of mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, corn, fodder, hay, and provisions, consisting in part of corn, sugar, molasses, coffee &c.

And deponent further says that during the occupancy of said plantation by the troops as aforesaid — he verily believes that all or the greater portion of the stores and provisions, and farm animals were taken for the use of the troops, and that although strict orders were issued for the giving of receipts and taking of stores only by regular details, yet deponent believes that but little of the property was duly receipted for.

And deponent further says the farm superintendent or overseer was one E. W. Mysick, with whom deponent was personally acquainted, that said Mysick reported to the deponent several times the taking by the troops of animals, stores & supplies. — and that while deponent did not see personally the taking of said stores — he yet knows the stores and supplies were taken at the time of the occupancy of said plantation, and were not there when the plantation was vacated.

And deponent further says that he was personally acquainted with the owner of said plantation, to wit, Franklin D. Cossitt living at Lagrange, Tennessee, that he knows said Cossitt was considered as a Union man by the residents and the surrounding country and that he was held by them as an enemy of the Confederate government and as such was subject to great annoyance and trouble from his rebel neighbors.

And deponent further says that he fully believed & yet believes that the said Cossitt has been at all times loyal and true to the Government of the United States and the Union.

And deponent further says that he is neither directly or indirectly interested in the claim of said Cossitt. And that he has neither expectation or hope of reward for his action in this matter and that the same has been of own free will, and solely because he believes the said Cossitt to be entitled to indemnity for the losses he has met with in the taking of his property by the troops of the United States.

Charles S. Hamilton U.S.M. Eastern Dist. Wis. Personally appeared before me this 15th day of October 1876 the above named Charles S. Hamilton U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. And makes oath that the statements in the foregoing affidavit are true and the best of his knowledge and belief.

Edward Kurtz
Clerk U. S. Circuit Court
Eastern Dist. Of Wisconsin

4.5 Tennessee Depositions from 21 & 28 Jan. 1876

4.5.1 Deposition of Edward M. Myrick

[This document may be found in Images 184–188 and 631–635]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Edward W. Myrick being duly sworn deposes as follows,

I am 55 years of age. I reside in La Grange Fayette County Tenn and am a farmer. In 1860 I was engaged by Franklin D. Cossitt to superintend his plantations. He owned 3 plantations known as the Myrick, Urquhart and Adams plantations all situated in Fayette County Tenn and adjacent to La Grange. I lived on the Myrick place with my family and made occasional visits to the other two places.

The plantations were all large except the Adams place which comprised 306 acres. The Myrick place comprised 1000 acres 300 of which was Timber land. The Urquhart place comprised 1500 acres of which 1000 acres was in cultivation. These plantations were well stocked with Cattle Hogs as Mr. Cossitt was one of the largest and most influential planters in Fayette County Tenn.

I was present when the troops under Genl. Hamilton in November 1862 killed the Hogs and Cattle on the Myrick place. There were 75 Fattening Hogs and 125 Stock Hogs and 34 Head of Cattle taken from the Myrick place during that period. The Fattening Hogs were in a field by themselves. The Stock Hogs were running loose. The soldiers drove their Wagons into the field, shot down the Hogs and threw them into their Wagons and hauled them to the camp on the plantation. They were several days in killing the 75 Fat Hogs. I saw 4 Wagons in the field at one time. There was an officer with the soldiers when they were killing them. I did not ask his name and did not know to which Regiment he belonged. After they killed the Fat Hogs, The Stock Hogs got into the field where the Fat Hogs were fattening. (It was a field of Peas) and the soldiers gradually killed them as they required them.

The Cattle were killed on different parts of the plantation. Some men drove up to the House and killed. Others drove to Camp. The Cattle were fat and in fine condition. They killed in all 34 Head.

Genl. Hamilton made his head quarters at my House and I talked to him about the killing of the Stock. He told me they needed them. They took at this same time our Hogheads of Brown Sugar and 6 Barrels of Molasses. The Sugar was stored in the Carriage House and the Molasses in the Smoke House. A Lieutenant came and had the Sugar and Molasses rolled out into the front yard and had it dealt out in Buckets. I asked him how he knew it was there, he said the soldiers had reported it and he had orders to take it. The Hoghead of Sugar would weigh about 1000 pounds and the Molasses 40 gallons to the Barrell.

I did not see any of the Stock taken from the Urquhart place. I know there was 100 Fattening Hogs and about 110 Stock Hogs and 50 Head of Cattle on the place. I believe they were all taken by the Federal Troops and used by them. The Fat Hogs on the Myrick place would weigh on an average 175 pound each and the Stock Hogs would average 60 pounds. There was also taken from the Myrick place 150 Bushel Sweet Potatoes. I measured the Potatoes when they were put up. They were in two large Hills near the House. The potatoes were also taken by the troop. I could not be sure of the quantity of Stock on the Urquhart place as I did not pay much attentions to the Stock on that place. I have no interest in this matter.

Edw. Myrick

Subscribed and sworn to before me by E. W. Myrick with whom I am personally acquainted and who I verily believe to be respectable worthy and entitled to credit; and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this claim.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office the 21st day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County Tennessee

4.5.2 Second Deposition of Edward M. Myrick

[This document may be found in Images 229–241 and 676–688]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Edward M Myrick being duly sworn deposes as follows.

I am 55 years of age. I reside in La Grange Tenn. And am a farmer. During the War I was superintendent of the plantation known as the Myrick plantation. It belonged to Franklin D. Cossitt and is situated 2 1/2 Miles South-East of La Grange Tenn. on the LaGrange and Ripley Road. I was engaged by Mr. Cossitt in 1860 for the aforesaid purpose. I also superintended. His other plantation known as the Adams and Urqhart places. I resided with my family on the Myrick place.

These plantations consisted of the following numbers of acres of land. The Myrick place on which I lived 1000 acres, 700 acres cleared and 300 in Timber. 640 acres under a good Rail fence, besides cross fences. The Adams place comprised about 306 acres all under fence about 60 or 70 acres cleared. The balance Timber land. The “Urqhart” place comprised 1500 acres about 1000 acres cleared. The balance Timber land. The cleared land on this place was all under fence.

These plantations were all fine plantations – good average land and yielded good Crops. They were all well stocked with the best of everything necessary to carry on the cause. I attended to those places from 1860 until the end of the War and lived on the Myrick place until 1871. I was present on the Myrick place when the Federal Army took his property and kept a memorandum of the kinds and amopunts of property which the Federal Army took. I gave Mr. Cossitt a copy of this memorandum. I cannot produce the original for the reason that I did not pay any attention to it after I had given him the copy and the only reason I had for keeping this memorandum was simply to show Mr. Cossitt the amount of stock and forage which was taken by the Federal Troops. I do not know what Mr. Cossitt did with the memorandum. In the Fall of 1862 the Federal Troops under Genl Hamilton camped on and around The Myrick place. His Headquarters was at Mr. Scott's plantation about 1 1/2 Miles from the Myrick place about 10 days afterwards he moved his headquarters to My House and remained there between 4 and 5 weeks. During this time the following property was taken. 17 Mules, 5 or 6 of this lot of Mules was afterwards returned but retaken from the Stable by the Federal Soldiers. I was right at the Stable when they took them as well as I recollect these Mules were taken by the 11th Ills. Cav. The soldiers stated that they were ordered by the Col to take them and they took them to Davis Mills Miss. I complained to Genl Hamilton about the taking and he sent one of his staff with me to Davis Mills to if possible get back the Mules. When we got to the camp at Davis Mills, we looked all around the camp but could not find them. So we came back to the plantation. These were all fine Mules about 15 hands high. I don't think there was a Mule over 9 years old in this lot. They were all in good condition. They were worth at least $150.00 each. I afterwards saw the Mules hitched to the government Wagons. I never got any receipt or voucher. I did not ask for any. I think there was a Lieut. Along with soldiers when the Mules were taken. These Mules were the first property that was taken from the Myrick place. In 1862 I cultivated nearly 700 acres. 150 acres I cultivated in Cotton. The Balance was cultivated in Corn, Oats, etc. Over 400 acres was in Corn. This was the Crop on the Myrick place, when the Troops camped on the plantation. This Corn was all in the field except between 40 and 50 acres which I had gathered and put in the cribs. There were 4 Cribs on the plantation. Two of these were 18x16 and 10 feet high, one 20x22 and 10 feet high. The other was 10x15 and 10 feet high. Of these Cribs the three largest were full of Corn which I gathered from the field. There was no Corn in the Small Crib. All the Corn was standing in the field with the aforesaid exceptions. The land on which this Crop was cultivated was a little better than average land and would average at least 5 barrells to the acre.

During the time that General Hamilton's Division was encamped as aforesaid They took all the Corn in the field. The soldiers drove the Wagons into the field, loaded and hauled it to camp to feed their stock. I spoke to Genl Hamilton about the taking of all the Corn in the field and he told me That

they needed the Corn butbthat he would protect what I had in the Cribs. His troops did not take any of the Corn in the Cribs, but when they fell back from Holly Springs Miss. After Vandorn's raid, they took every ear that was on the place. I could see their feeding it to their Horses and Mules. At the same time they took Fodder and Hay. The Fodder was stacked in the field except sixty acres which I hauled up to the lot when I gathered the Corn in the Cribs. To the best of my recollection there was 60 stacks of Fodder in the field, large double stacks. They would weigh about 1600 pounds each. As near as I can recollect there was about 10 stacks of Hay about 1600 pounds to the stack, all this Hay and Fodder was taken at the same time as the Corn and fed to the Troops encamped on and around the plantation. They also took some Hoes, Axes, Spades and Bridles but I do not recollect how many of each. All this property which I have stated, Mules, Corn, Fodder, Hay was actually taken and used by the Federal Army and from about the early part of November 1862 until nearly Christmas of same year. I got some receipts or vouchers for some of this property. I turned these over thn to Mr. Cossitt as well as I can now recollect the vopuchers or receipts was for Corn and Fodder. I cannot state the amount. These vouchers or receipts was given me by the Quartermasters of the different regiments encamped there. I did not get receipts for the amount of property taken. Some would give me vouchers and others would refuse. I never made any formal demand for vouchers for the actual amount of property taken. I just took receipts when they gave them to me. During all the time Mr. Cossitt was living in La Grange but would occasionally come out to the farm. Genl Hamilton and Mr. Cossitt were a good deal together, but I could not state if he made any complaint as to the taking of his property. After the command of genl Hamilton left with Genl Grants Army to go to Vicksburg via Holly Springs. There was only left on the place the cribs I have before described and about 5 stacks of Fodder which I hauled from the field from which the Corn was gathered. On the retreat of the Army from Holly Springs to La Grange they took all the Corn from the Cribs and the 5 stacks of Fodder. I cannot state which regiment or division took this Corn and Fodder. I cannot state which particular Regiment or Regiments took any portion of the property from the Myrick place.

At the same time there was a large quantity of property taken from Mr. Cossitt's "Urquhart" place. I used to go occasionally to this plantation, but did not see so much taken. I did not see the Mules taken from this plantation, but afterwards saw 22 Mules in the government Wagons hauling Corn from this plantation and otherwise using them for Government purposes.

I cultivated on the Urquhart place in 1862, 1000 acres in Cotton, Corn, Wheat, Oats and Potatoes. There was about 300 acres in Cotton, 70 acres in Oats and Wheat and Potatoes and the balance 630 acres in Corn. I do not think any of this Corn was gathered when the troops came to La Grange in the fall, but there might have been 100 acres gathered from the bottom field, and put in the Cribs. As I was going to send five from our plantation to the other I saw the soldiers hauling this Corn from the fields. Not being

on the place constantly I could not state exactly what amount was taken until after the Troops left. I cannot satte how many stacks of Fodder and Hay was on this place. I know there was a great deal more than on the Myrick place. After the troops left for Vicksburg via Holly Springs, I visited that plantation and found the Corn all gathered. The Fodder, Hay and Oats all consumed. Not a Mule on the plantation. I did not get any receipts for any property taken from this plantation. There was a Mr. Gilchrist overseer on this plantation. He is now dead but I do not think they gave him any receipts. There was scarcely anything of the Crop of 1862 left on either the Myrick or Urquhart plantations. Everything was taken by the Federals during the months of November and December. There were no Mules on the plantations. Mr. Cossitt left La Grange for Chicago Ills. In April 1863 and those places were never again stocked. I worked the Myrick farm the best way I could. The Urquhart place was never worked until after the war ceased. I cannot call to mind the troops stationed on the Urquhart place. The whole of Genl Grant's Army was camped around La Grange at that time. All the fencing was taken and used for firewood around the Myrick place. 640 acres of this plantation were under a good Rail fence 10 Rails high, besides fences around the Orchard Lots and Cross fences. There were not less than five Miles of Rail fencing taken. It will take about 7000 Rails to make one Mile of fence. The troops took not less than about 35000 Rails. The fencing was in good order a portion new and a portion old. I saw the soldiers hauling the Rails to camp and using them for fire wood and cooking purposes. About 20 acres of the Timber land was cut and used for fire wood. The soldiers cut this Timber themselves. I cannot be positive as to the exact quantity but am certain that they cut at least 20 acres in all. The Timber would cut 30 cords to the acre. About this quantity I would estimate. As I before stated the Adams place comprised about 300 acres. All the land was under fence. The fence was new. I put the fence up in 1861. I could not state what quantity of Rails was made in order to fence the place. All the Rails around the place were taken abd used for firewood by the soldiers. I saw the soldiers loading and hauling the Rails. I cannot estimate the number of Rails necessary to fence this place, on account of the shape of the place unless I neasured it.

About two miles of fencing was taken from the "Urquhart" place. I can only state about the quantity as I never paid the same attention to the taking as I did at the other two places mentioned. The fences were all 10 Rails high. All this property as I have described was actually taken by the United States troops and I believe for their acvtual use and benefit. From the lapse of time I fail to recollect all the different transactions and quantities of property taken. Claimant would come to the plantations about once a week until he left the South. I have no interest in this matter.

E. M. Myrick

Subscribed and sworn to before me by E.M. Myrick with whom I am well acquainted and I certify that I verily believe said affiant to be respectable

worthy and entitled to credit and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 21st day of January A.D. 1876.

T.J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.3 Deposition of Susan E. Myrick

[This document may be found in Images 242–245 and 689–692]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Susan E. Myrick being duly sworn deposes as follows

I reside in La Grange Tennessee. I am 54 years of age and the wife of Edward M. Myrick. During the War I resided on Mr. F. D. Cossitt's plantation known as the "Myrick" plantation. My husband and myself and family moved to said plantationin 1860. We continued to live there until 1871. The planation is situate about 2 1/2 miles from La Grange Tenn. And is on the road leading from La Grange to Ripley Mills.

Mr. Cossitt owned two other plantations besides the Myrick place known as the "Urquhart" and "Adams" plantations, all lying adkacent to La Grange Tenn. I was present on the "Myrick" plantation when 17 head of mules were taken by Genl Hamilton's Division in the fall of 1862. I think the month of November, The Mules were taken from the stable and took by the Federal soldiers. The soldiers rode the Mules of. I do not know to which place they took them, I do not remember of having ever seen them again. These Mules were all good Mules and in good condition. I do notknow whether we ever got any of them back. I saw the U.S. Soldiers hauling away corn and fodder almost all the plantation was in Corn and Cotton. I could not say which proportion. I think there was more Corn than Cotton. There were three Cribs full of Corn on the place besdies which was in the field. I do not know te size of the Cribs. The soldiers commenced hauling from the field first aftre they had cleared it all from the fields they then commenced taking from the Cribs. When the Army left I mean Genl Grant's Army left La Grange. There was scarcely any Corn on the place. The fodder was taken from the field and Lob. I do not know how many stacks of fodder there was on the plantation. I could see the Wagons in the field loading with Corn almost every day during the time they were there. When Genl Grant's Army left to go to Vicksburg there was not a Mule on the plantation and it was completely stripped of Corn and Forage. I know that all of this property was taken by the Federal Army. The plantation was well stocked and there was plenty of everything. I did not see any property taken from the "Urquhart"

place. I was never on this place during the War. I can only state from hearsay that almost all the property on the Urquhart place was taken by the Federal troops. My husband was Mr. Cossitt's Superintendent and attended to the aforesaid plantation. I saw the soldiers using the Rails around the plantation for firewood and cooking purposes. The fence was almost entirely used up. They also cut a quantity of timber back. I cannot state how much. The troops were camped on and around ths plantation and remained from about the beginning of November 1862 until nearly Christmas of Same year and the property was taken during that time. I have no interest in this matter.

Susan E. Myrick

Subscribed and sworn to before me by affiant Mrs. Susan E Myrick with whom I am personally acquainted; and I certify that I verily believe said affiant to be respectable worthy and entitled to credit and I further certify that I have no interest in this claim.

Witness my hand and Notarial seal at Office; this the 21st of January A. D. 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.4 Deposition of William Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 191–194 and 638–641]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

William Cossitt – being duly sworn deposes as follows

I am 55 years of age. I reside 3 miles from La Grange Fayette County Tenn. And am a farmer. I am a colored man. I formerly belonged to Franklin D. Cossitt and resided on his "Urquhart" plantation. I resided there before and during the War. His plantation is 3 miles from La Grange. I am still living on the same place. It comprises about 1500 acres of land about 1000 acres in cultivation. I was the foreman and was well acquainted with everything on the place. In the Fall of the first year the Federal Army came to La Grange. I saw them take Mr. Cossitt's Hogs and Cattle. We had 500 head Hogs on the plantation including Fattening Hogs Stock Hogs, Sons and Shoats. I attended to and for the Stock on the place. We had 90 head of Cattle in all including Yearlings Cows Steers and Oxen. We had 40 Head of Fattening Hogs in a Pen about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile from the House. These fattening Hogs would weigh on an average 175 pounds each. The other Hogs I would suppose would weigh about 60 pounds each on an average. The Cattle were

all fine fat Cattle. After the Federal Army encamped on the plantation and all around and in La Grange Tenn., They commenced Killing the Hogs and Cattle. The soldiers came to the Fattening pen with their Wagons Shot down the Hogs skinned them, loaded them on their Wagons and drove to camp toward La Grange. They continued Killing Hogs in this way until every fattening Hog and Stock Hog we had was taken on the place. After the Army left there was not a Hog to be found. We had to buy Meat in La Grange. I saw men with shoulder straps with the soldiers where they were Killing the Hogs & Cattle. The Cattle were all in a Big lot near the House. When they commenced Killing them I hurried them into the field but the Soldiers got every one of them. They took every Cow & Heifer on the place. Some of them were driven to La Grange and put in pens there. I do not think it took the soldiers more than a week to take the Cattle and Hogs. Mr. Cossitt did not live on the place. He resided in La Grange and was not on the place when the property was taken at the same time they took all the finest Potatoes on the place. The soldiers came with their Wagons and hauled them away by the Wagon load. We had about 5 or 6 acres in Sweet Potatoes that year. I suppose the land would yield about 500 bushels to the acre. Mr Saddler a white man who helped to pull up the potatoes, told me that this was the yield per acre. The potatoes were put up in hills near the house. The soldiers took every bit of the Potatoes and hauled them to La Grange and to the camps around the plantation. I followed some of the Cattle to La Grange. That's where I came to see them in the pens. I was on the plantation all the time and saw the property taken. I have no interest in this claim.

William Cossitt (his mark)
Witness T. J. Shelton Jr

Subscribed and sworn to before me this January 21st AD 1876 by affiant William Cossitt Colored; with whom I am personally acquainted and whom I believe to be a respectable and credible person – and the law affidavit was carefully read over to him and explained before signing – and I further certify that I have no interest in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarant Seal at Office this the 21st day of January A.D. 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County Tennessee

4.5.5 Second Deposition of William Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 250–256 and 697–703]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

William Cossitt being duly sworn deposes as follows:

I am 55 years of age. I reside 3 miles from La Grange Fayette County Tenn. And am a farmer. I am a colored man. I formerly belonged to Franklin D. Cossitt and resided on his "Urquhart" plantation. I resided there before and during the War. His plantation is 3 miles from La Grange. I am still living on the same place. It comprises about 1500 acres, about 1000 acres cleared. I was the foreman and was well acquainted with everything that pertained to the place. The first year the Yankees came to La Grange we cultivated the plantation in Cotton, Corn, Wheat, Oats and Potatoes. We made very little Cotton that year. The principal crop was Corn. I could not state how many acres we had in Corn, but it was a great deal. I know we made more Corn that year than we ever did before. This was the first year of the War.

The Federal Army camped on the plantation and all around, from the plantation to La Grange; it was a large army. I cannot recollect the name of the officer who had headquarters at Mr. Cossitt's house. This was in the fall of the year. After they camped around the plantation They commened taking Mr. Cossitt's property. I think it was in the months of November and December I saw the soldiers take 30 head of Mules from the Stable. The first time they came they took 15 Head and took the Balance of the 30 during the Week. They were all taken in one week. There was a great many soldiers around the stable when they were taken. They put bridles, Halters and ropes on them and led them off towards La Grange. I afterwards saw some 10 or 12 of these Mules working in Government Wagons. They were Hauling Corn and Fodder and using them for various purposes a good many of the hands on the plantation was present when the Mules were taken. There was no white people on the place when the taking took place. After the soldiers took the Mules I went to La Grange and told Mr. Cossitt that the Federals had taken the last Mule on the place. He did not say anything. These were all fine large Mules in good condition and young. I do not know their value. None of these Mules ever came back to the plantation. They never gave me any receipt for the Mules; at the same time they commenced hauling the Corn and Fodder and Hay. We had 4 cribs on the place, besides a large quantity was in the field. We had not gathered muck Corn before the Yankees came. Two of the four cribs were only full. The balance of the Corn was all in the field. The soldiers came from day to day from the time they came to La Grange with Wagons (Four Mule teams) until nearly Christmas and hauled the Corn from the field and Cribs until they had every bit of Corn on the place. They hauled all the time. To the best of my recollection we had 55 stacks of Fodder on the place. Principally all stacked in the field, some was stacked at the Cob. They were double stacks. That year we planted a great deal of peas between the Corn rows, besides a large quantity was sown broad cast. I can't recollect how many Stacks of Peas we had; besides the Peas we had a quantity of Hay. This Forage was all stacked on the place and was all taken by the Federal soldiers at that same time that they took the Corn. This Corn and Forage were taken to the camps on

and around the plantation, but I think the principal part was taken to La Grange. The Quartermaster generally came with the Wagons. I heard the soldiers call him the Quartermaster and he was differently dressed from the rest of the soldiers. At the same time they took all the gear on the place and every Wagon on the place. There was 5 wagons on the Urquhart place. They were 4 or 6 Mule Wagons. I never saw these Wagons after they were taken.

During all this time I was on the plantation and saw everything disappear. When the Federal Army left La Grange, There was scarcely anything left on the place, every Mule and every bit of Corn and Forage was cleaned out. They took and used nearly all the Rails on the place. I saw the soldiers hauling the Rails and using them for firewood. I cannot say how many Rails were taken. The plantation was all under good fence, and they used them on the plantation and hauled them away in every direction. Mr. Cossitt did not come to the place but once during this time. He was a large planter and owned Three large plantations, and they were all well stocked and worked to their utmost capacity.

I know that this property was all taken by the Federal army because I was on the plantation and I believe it was used for the benefit of the Army, as I saw them using large quantities of the Corn and Forage. I am not interested in this claim and have not been promised any thing if his claim should be paid. I did not see any property taken from the other plantations.

William Cossitt (his mark)
Witnessed by T. J. Shelton Jr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by affiant William Cossitt; with whom I am personally acquainted; and whom I believe to be a credible person and I certify that the said affidavit was read over to him and carefully explained before signing – and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 21st day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County

4.5.6 Deposition of Harrison Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 189–190 and 636–637]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Harrison Cossitt being duly sworn deposes as follows,

I am 41 years of age. I reside 2 miles from La Grange Tenn and am a farmer. I am a colored man and formerly belonged to Franklin D. Cossitt. I lived on his plantation known as the "Myrick" plantation before and during the War.

The plantation was large and it was well stocked with everything. I know there was a great many Hogs and Cattle on the place, but I do not know the number. I saw a good many Hogs killed by the Federal soldiers during the time that the Federals were camped around La Grange and on and around the plantation. These Hogs were killed in the Fall of the first year that the Federals came to La Grange and while Genl. Hamilton had his head quarters at Mr. Myrick's house. I did not see much of the Stock killed and taken away, because I was not at home at the time. I never saw any Cattle taken. I am satisfied that his Stock was all taken because there was no other army in the neighborhood which could have taken the Stock.

Mr. Cossitt lived at La Grange Tenn and was his teamster. I have no interest in this matter.

[his mark]
Harrison Cossitt
Witness by T. J. Shelton Jr.

Subscribed and sworn before me by Harrison Cossitt -– with whom I am personally acquainted; and who I believe to be a credible person – and I certify that the said affidavit was carefully read over to and explained to himbefore signing – and I further certify that I am not interested in this matter.

Witnes my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this January 21, 1876

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County Tennessee

4.5.7 Second deposition of Harrison Cossitt

[This document may be found in Images 257-260 and 704–707]

State of Tennesse
Fayette County

Harrison Cossitt being duly sworn deposes as follows:

I am about 41 years of age. I reside 2 miles from La Grange Tenn. and am a farmer. I am a colored man and formerly belonged to Franklin D. Cossitt. I lived on his plantation known as the "Myrick" plantation before and during the War. I was present when the Federal Army took property from his plantation. I saw them take 5 Mules from the Stable on the plantation and four which they took from me in the Wagon. The Five were taken by about twenty soldiers. They put halters on them and led them

off towards Mr. Scott's plantation. This was in the Fall of the first year the Federal Soldiers came to La Grange. I was standing by the Horse Lot when they took the Mules. Mr. Myrick the superintendent was at the House at the time. I didn't know whether Mr. Myrick saw the soldiers take these 5 Mules. The stable was about 50 or 60 yards from the House. These Mules were fine large Mules in good condition and young. I would value them at $160 each. I never saw any of these Mules afterward except one and I saw him in Memphis working to a government Wagon.

The four Mules that was taken from me with Wagon I never afterward saw. They were taken from me near Davis Mills, and they kept me two weeks at Davis Mills before they would let me go home. I was hauling Cross ties during the two weeks with the Mules to help to build a fort near the said Davis Mills before I came back to the plantation. I asked them to give me back the Mules so that I could take them home, but they told me the Mules belonged to Uncle Sam. I never saw those Mules any more. I did not see any more Mules taken from the Myrick place because I was a great deal from home. I was a teamster.

The first year that the Federal Army came to La Grange we cultivated nearly all the place in Corn. Very little Cotton was made. About the same time the Mules were taken the soldiers commenced hauling the Corn. I saw them hauling Corn from the Cribs and from the field. I saw them take 12 Wagon loads from the Cribs and a great deal from the field. I cannot state how much for the reason that I was pressed by the soldiers, taken to Grand Junction and hauled Cotton for the government. When I got back to the plantation the Corn was all gone. I did not see the Fodder, Hay or Peas taken but I am satisfied they took the Forage; everything on the plantation was taken. There was not a Mule or any Corn or Forage on the plantation when I got back home. The Federal Army was camped on the plantation and all around the County and at La Grange. Genl Hamilton had his head quarters at Mr. Myrick's house. I have no interest in this matter and have not been promised any thing if the claim should be paid.

Harrison Cossitt (his mark)
Witnessed by T. J. Shelton Jr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Harrison Cossitt, colored, with whom I am personally acquainted; and I certify I believe said affiant to be a credible person – and that the said affidavit was read over to him and carefully explained to him before signing and I further certify that I am not interested in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 21st day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.8 Deposition of Adam Morton

[This document may be found in Images 261-264 and 709-711]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Adam Morton being duly sworn deposes as follows:

I am 45 years of age. I reside 3 miles from La Grange Fayette County Tenn. and am a farmer. I am a colored man. I was formerly the slave of Franklin D. Cossitt and during the War resided partly at La Grange with Mr. Cossitt, sometimes at the "Myrick" and sometimes at the "Urquhart" plantation. I sometimes worked in the field and sometimes in the Carpenter Shop. I never saw property taken from Mr. Cossitt's plantations by the Federal Troops except some Hogs and some Cattle. I did see 6 Mules which belonged to Mr. Cossitt hitched to some Government Wagons. I knew they were his Mules because I was well acquainted with his Stock and some of these Mules I had worked myself. This was in the Fall of the first year that the Federal Army came to La Grange and it was Genl Grant's Army.

I never saw these Mules more than once, and the soldiers was working them in the Wagons. I afterwards saw 3 other Mules in the possession of the soldiers. When I saw them they were coming towards La Grange and the soldiers was leading them. I afterwards saw one of the three aforesaid Mules working in a government Wagon. All these Mules which I have stated as having seen in the possession and use of the Federal Troops were Mules which belonged to Mr. Cossitt's "Urquhart" place. These Mules never came back to the plantation, about the same time I saw four Mules which belonged to the Myrick plantation working in the governemnt Wagons. I knew the Mules belonged to Mr. Cossitt and that they were from his Myrick plantation; one of four which I have above stated I saw in Memphis hitched to a government Wagon. This was in the year that Mr. Cossitt left La Grange.

I did not see anything else taken. I have heard that everything on the different plantations was taken by the Federal Army and believe it to be true, because I was on the several plantations which Mr. Cossitt owned after the Army left and there was nothing left on them. There was no Mules on the Urquhart place and no Corn or Forage. I think there was one Mule on the Myrick place, everything was cleaned out; all the Hogs and Cattle was killed. I only saw six Hogs killed and Three Head of Cattle. The reason I did not see anything taken was because I chiefly lived in La Grange with Mr. Cossitt. I have no interest in this matter and have not been promised anything if his claim should be paid.

Adam Morton (his mark)
Witnessed by T. J. Shelton Jr.

Subscribed and sworn to by Adam Morton before me – and I certify that I am personally acquainted with said deponent and believe him to be a

respectable and credible person and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 22 day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County Tennessee

4.5.9 Deposition of Newitt Harris

[This document may be found in Images 174–175, 211-214, 621–622 and 659–661]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Newitt Harris being duly sworn deposes as follows;

I am 56 years of age. I reside 6 miles North of La Grange Fayette County Tenn. I have known Franklin D. Cossitt for about 30 years. I resided about 6 miles from him up to April 1863 when he left La Grange for Chicago Illinois where he has resided ever since. I was intimately acquainted with him up to the time aforesaid and am now, only I do not see him so often as I used to from the beginning of the War up to the time he left for Chicago, I suppose I saw him as often as twice a week, he was a large Merchant and one of the most extensive farmers in the neighborhood of La Grange.

I had many conversation with him about secession, the War and the Union Cause. These conversations would occur when I would come to La Grange. He was my merchant and my relations were intimate and Confidential. He was bitterly opposed to secession on the grounds That it was not right and that it would be ruinous, deprecated the War believing that it was entirely uncalled for, That the Union ought to be preserved and in its preservation was our only Safety.

In my judgement there was no Stronger Union man in the South. In politics he was a Whig and in the last conversation which I had with him at Sumerville Tenn. He stated that Lincoln would have made the best President, That the Confederacy was a bubble wrong in principle and that it could not stand.

He was regarded by those who knew him as being a Union Man and in favor of the preservation of the same.

I always regarded Claimant as being one of the loyal men of this Section of Country. My knowledge was based on his statements and expressions to me & I believe he represented his true feelings which was a full sympathy with the Casue and government of the United States. Claimant owned several large plantations and was one of the wealthiest men in this neighborhood. I was a Union Man and it was generally known that I was such. I have no interest in his Claim.

(signed) Newitt Harris

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the deponent, Newitt Harris to me well known and I certify that I verily believe said affiant is respectable worthy and entitled to credit and further do I certify that I have no interest in this Claim.

Witness my hand and Notational Seal at Office this the 20th day of January AD 1876.

T. J. Shelton, Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.10 Deposition of Henry W. Rossiene

[This document may be found in Images 176–177, 215–218, 623–624 and 662-665]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Henry W. Rossiene being duly sworn deposes as follows,

I am 59 years of age. I reside in La Grange Tenn. and a Watch Maker. I have resided in La Grange aforesaid for 23 years. I have known Franklin D. Cossitt ever since I came to La Grange. I have known him intimately for a number of years. From the beginning of the War up to April 1863 when he left for Chicago Ills I saw him almost every day, he was a large Merchant in La Grange and owned several large farms lying adjacent to La Grange.

My conversations were many and varied. We talked about the War, Secession and the Union Cause and he freely expressed himself to me on all the varying issues. He knew My Sentiments and in talking we had Confidence in each other. Mr. Cossitt was not so outspoken as I was owing to his large interest, and the fact of him being a Commercial Yankee. This made him timid and he probably made many evasions. But to those who knew him well and in whom he had confidence he freely expressed the sentiments of his heart.

His feelings and sympathies were in favor of the Cause and government of the United States and from all my conversations and from my observation of his actions I regarded and had confidence in him as a Union Man. He was regarded by the Federal Military authorities as being loyal. I have often been asked by some of our Generals during the War, in relation to Mr. Cossitt's loyalty and I have all along endorsed him as a Union Man. I have heard and am satisfied he took the oath of allegiance to the United States shortly after the Federal Army came to La Grange. I believe he did so voluntarily of his own free will and accord and from my knowledge of his character, I know he would keep it, inviolate. He was regarded by the Rebel element in this

neighborhood with great suspicion, and his actions were closely watched day and night, and in Consequence of this fact, he had to be very circumspect, and to keep a guard on his tongue. All the Union Men in this neighborhood knew how he stood and was classed as one of the loyal men by those who knew him.

I have talked with him after the result of Federal Victories, and he felt as glad as I did and it made him happy. He left La Grange in April 1863 and has lived in Chicago Ills. ever since.

I did not see after April 1863 untill after the War was over. I was a Union Man and everybody knew me as such. I have no interest in this matter,

(signed) Henry W. Rossiene

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Henry W. Rossiene with whom I am well acquainted and I certify that I verily believe said affiant to be respectable worthy amd entitled to Credit and I further certify I have no interest whatever in this matter,

Witness my hand and Notary Seal of Office, this the 21st day of January AD 1876

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.11 Deposition of M. P. Pulliam

[This document may be found in Images 178–179, 219–222, 625–626 and 666-669]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

M. P. Pulliam being duly sworn deposes as follows, I am 47 years of age. I reside in La Grange Tenn. And am a Justice of the Peace. I have resided in La Grange for 23 years. I became acquainted with Franklin D. Cossitt in the fall of 1852 and knew him intimately up to the time he left La Grange for Chicago Illinois which I think was in the Spring of 1863. During the War we both lived in the town of La Grange and I met him almost every day. He was a Merchant, and one of the largest Planters in Fayette County. From the inception of the War until he left for Chicago I had frequent conversations with him about the War, secession & the Union Cause. He always expressed himself to me before the War commenced as being opposed to the War, and that he did not believe there would be any way believing there would be a Compromise between the Sections.

In politics he was a Whig. After the War was a fact in our talks he still deprecated it, did not believe in Secession, said it was wrong and that the

act of secession was the worst thing the South could have done. He said the Union was bound to be maintained and that it ought to be maintained, from our general conversations his sympathies were with Cause of the Union. He was one of the few men whom I could talk to freely. The Union men of the section regarded him as being all right, and the Rebels looked on him with suspicion and my impression is that his language & actions were closely watched. He was regarded with favor by all the Federal Military authorities at La Grange. I believe he took the oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government shortly after the occupation of La Grange by the Federal Troops, and I believe if he did so that he would keep it inviolate. I always regarded F. D. Cossitt as being in favor of the Cause and government of the United States from the beginning of the War untill the time he left La Grange for Chicago. I had a conversation with him after the battle of Shiloh as to the results and he expressed his pleasure at the results of the victory for the Union and his hopes that they would be still Victorious and terminate the War and that the people ought to accept Lincoln's Proclamamtion. I was a Union Man and was so regarded by everybody and Mr. Cossitt knew my feelings and Sympathies. Hence our many and confidential conversations. I have no interest in this matter,

(signed) M. P. Pulliam

Subscribed and sworn to before me by M. P. Pulliam with whom I am well acquainted; and I certify that said deponent is respectable; worthy and entitled to Credit and I further certify that I am not interested in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 21st day of January AD 1876

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County
Tennessee

4.5.12 Deposition of Richard H. Parham

[This document may be found in Images 180–181, 223–225, 627–628 and 670–672]

Richd. H. Parham deposes as follows,

I am sixty-seven years old. Since 1843 I have resided continuously at my present residence in Benton, formerly Marshall County, Mississippi,, five miles South of La Grange Fayette County Tenn.; during all the long period referred to I have known the Claimant F. D. Cossitt intimately. Ever since I have known him he has resided in La Grange Tenn. or near there and continued there thereabouts to reside down to the period of the Rebellion.

During my long acquaintance with the Claimant I had many transactions with him & frequently interchanged political views and opinions with him. His political position was similar to my own. He was a Whig in politics

and always voted that ticket and in the Presidential election of 1860 voted for Bill & Everett on the platform of the Constitution, the Union and the enforcement of the Laws. Such is and always was my understanding and conviction of his political principles and course. He was opposed to the War and to Secession, was a Union man from principle and conviction and loyal to the government of the U. States. I saw and conversed with the Claimant before the War and during the war and had as I conceive ample opportunities to form the opinion I have thus confidently expressed. He was a Northern man by birth and education and was, of course, when the crisis came in our history, cautious and prudent in his course and utterances. I thus depose as an act of justice the Claimant with whom I am in no way connected or interested.

I can not now recall any particular expressions of the Claimant in the utterance of his political views and opinions and state only my conviction of what were his political principles and affiliations before the war and during the war. And further this Deponent saith not.

(signed) Richd. H. Parham

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Richd. H. Parham the affiant with whom I am personally acquainted and whom I certify to be a respectable and credible person and I further certify I have no beneficial interest in this matter nor am I in any way engaged in the prosecution of any claim of Franklin D. Cossitt against the United States Government.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office in La Grange Fayette County Tennessee this the 28th day of January AD 1876

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public of
Fayette County
Tennessee

4.6 Other Depositions

4.6.1 Deposition of Luke J. Whitfield (March 15, 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 183 and 629]

District of Columbia
City of Washington

Luke J. Whitfield, being duly sworn by Richard McAllister Jr. A Notary Public in and for said District deposes and says that theforegoing is a true Copy of the affidavits of Newitt Harris, Henry W. Rossiene, M. P. Pulliam and Richd. H. Parham and Certificates of T. J. Shelton Jr. A Notary Public the originals of which will be found on file in the Bureau of the Quarter Master General U. S. Army in support of the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt

for Quarter Master Stores taken in Fayette County Tennessee by the U. S. Army duringthe recent rebellion.

Luke J. Whitfield

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Fifteenth day of March AD 1876.

B. McAllister Jr.
Notary Public

4.6.2 Deposition of Luke Whitfield (March 29, 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 210 and 657]

Washington City DC March 29th 1876

District of Columbia
City of Washington

Luke J. Whitfield being duly sworn says that the foregoing papers signed J. H. Hammond A A Genl dated June 18th 1862, W. T. Sherman Maj Genl dated June 16th 1862, Jos. B. McPherson Maj Genl Comdg dated Nov 5th 1862, Jos. B. McPherson Maj Genl Comdg dated Nov 14th 1862, S. A. Hurlbert dated Nov 18, 1862, John E Smith P Marshall dated Nov 22 1862, C S Hamilton late Major Genl U S Vols dated Apr 1st 1864, Wm Sooy Smith Brig Genl Comdg 1st Div dated Apr 8th 1863, Wm. Sooy Smith April 18th 1863, H W Cushman late Col Commanding 53 Ills Vol dated April 9th 1864, S. A. Hurlbut Maj. Genl dated April 14th 1863, Guy S. Alexander Lieut Provost Marshall dated June 9th 1863, James J Gilbert Col 27th Iowa Comg Brigade dated Nov 25th 1863 are true Copies of original papers which will be found on file before the Commissioners of Claims in the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt for Quarter Masters Stores &c No 20459.

Luke Whitfield

R McAllister Jr.
Notary Public

4.6.3 Deposition of Alexander P. Rose (January 20, 1876)

[This document may be found in Images 227–229 and 674–675]

State of Tennessee
Fayette County

Alexander P. Rose being duly sworn deposes as follows:

I am 45 years of age. I reside 3 miles from La Grange Tennessee. I have known Franklin D. Cossitt ever since I was 10 years of age. During the war I resided about 1/4 Miles from his plantation known as the Myrick farm. He resided in La Grange Tennessee. Mr. Myrick lived on the farm and superintended the plantation. His plantation comprised 1000 acres in all. 700 acres cleared. The balance was woodland. He also owned another plantation known as the Adams plantation about 2 miles from the Myrick place. It comprised about 300 acres, about 60 or 80 acres cleared, the balance was woodland. He owned another plantation known as the Urquhart place about six miles from the Myrick place and about two miles from the Adams place. This plantation comprised about 1500 acres, about 1000 cleared. These plantations were owned by Claimant in Fayette County Tennessee They were in good condition and the land was as good as any in the county. They were all worked up to their capacity and they were well fenced and stocked. His plantations were better stocked than any in the whole county. I never saw any of his property taken by the Federal Army, but am perfectly satisfied. That almost everything he had on these plantations were taken and used by the Federal Army. I have no interest in this matter.

A. P. Rose

Subscribed and sworn to before me by A. P. Rose with whom I am personally acquainted and I certify that I verily believe said affiant to be respectable, worthy and entitled to Credit and further I do certify that I have no interest in this matter.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at Office this the 20th day of January A. D. 1876.

T. J. Shelton Jr.
Notary Public
of Fayette County Tennessee

Chapter 5

Exhibits from Claim 20459

5.1 Exhibit 1

[This document may be found in Images 290, 344 and 733]

Hd Qrs Lagrange Tenn
Nov 5th 1862

This is to certify that F. D. Cossitt has shown himself a good loyal man and has rendered important services to the Federal Cause. All Officers and soldiers of my command are directed to respect his property, and not to take anything from his plantations without keeping an accurate account of it, that proper receipts may be given.

Jas. B. McPherson
Maj Genl Cmg

5.2 Exhibit 2 (was Exhibit 1)

[This document may be found in Images 284, 365 and 728]

United States Left Wing Genl Hamilton Com

To F. D. Cossitt

10 Mules taken	QM
150 bushels swt potatoes	QCS
150 Killing Hogs	QCS
75 Stock Hogs	QCS
75 Stock Hogs	QCS
17 Head Cattle	QCS
250 lbs sugar	QCS
30 Acres Cotton destroyed	QM
1800 lbs Seed do turned out of Baskets by soldiers	QM
90 stacks Fodder	QM
Fencing destroyed	QM
355 Acres Corn gathered	QM
8 stacks Hay and Pea vines	QM
3 stacks Hay and pea vines	
75 Acres which I rented	QM
30 Acres which I rented	QM
45 Acres gathered	QM
100 chickens	QCS
12 bridles 12 hoes	QM
12 Axes	QM
12 Sett Gear	QM
12 Grubbing Hoes	QM
6 Spades	QM
9 Baggs Buckets	QM
40 Baskets Pitchers	QM
180 Yar Bagging	QM
1 pr Balinses	QM
7 Bbl Molasses	
7 Stack Straw	
1 noite house torn down	

5.3 Exhibit 2A (was Exhibit 2)

[This document may be found in Images 428 and 451]

United States Major General Joseph B McPherson Comdg.
To F. D. Cossitt
65 Stacks Fodder 1500 lbs. Ea
46 Stacks Hay & Pea Vines
7 Stacks Hay
400 Acres Corn
150 Killing Hogs
100 Stock Hogs
66 Head Cattle, Cows & Calves
16 Mules
5 Spades

2 Arm Chairs
35 bushels Meal
2 Sacks salt
17 Setts Gun
13 Bags Dry Peaches 3 bushel ea.
40 bushels Goober Peas or Pea Nuts
193 Chickens
12 or 1300 Bushels Potatoes
Shot Gun all the bed clothes of my agent
3 pr. Pants 1 Thin Coat 1 fur Cravate
Several Shirts – Hair Brush & Comb
2 buckets wash pan
all the Negro Cook utensils
broke open Smoak House & took everything
all my Sacks or Bags
Fencing Destroyed

Respectfully referred to Qr Master Rum 4th Div for investigation and settlement, Mr. Cossitt has rendered good service at different times and deserves compensation for the Articles taken & damage done him –

La Grange Nov 13th 1863
Jos. B. McPherson
Maj. Genl. Cmdg.

5.4 Exhibit 3

[This document may be found in Images 206, 371, 445 and 653]

Hd Qrs. Right Wing Army of the Tenn.
Lagrange Nov. 14Th 1862

Guard Pickets

Pass F. D. Cossitt through the lines until further orders.

Jas. B. McPherson
Maj. Genl. Comdg.

Jno. E. Smith
Provost Marshall.

5.5 Exhibit 4

[This document may be found in Images 447]

Hd. Qrs. Right Wing
13th Army Corps
Lagrange
Nov. 20th 1862

Guards and Pickets

Pass F. D. Cossitt to his Farm in the South Side of Wolf River near Rolls Ridge. Also to his Farm South of Grand Junction near Genl Hamilton's Head Quarters and return until further orders.

Js. B. McPherson
Maj. Genl. Comdg.

5.6 Exhibit 5

[This document may be found in Images 367, 449 and 434]

Hd Qrs Right Wing
13 Army Corps
LaGrange Nov. 20Th 1862

Mr. F. D. Cossitt has permission to retain for the present the three mules which he obtained from the Qr. Master department. He has had thirty-five mules taken from him by our army & the above three mules are required by him to secure his crops.

Jas. B. McPherson
Maj. Genl.
Duplicate original handed to Capt. Benner

5.7 Exhibit 6

[This document may be found in Images 205, 342, 439 and 652]

Hd Qrs. 5 Divn
June 16, 1862

Col. McDowell.
Comdg 2nd Regiment.

Sir,

The Bearer F. D. Cossitt will take charge of the two pieces of trestle work and will manage those Negroes and teams. He is interested in having the work well done and quickly. Please give him all help possible in mechanical tools and teams. I commend him to your attention as a gentleman of high reputation in the Community.

I am
W. T. Sherman
Maj. Genl.

5.8 Exhibit 7

[This document may be found in Images 430, 323–324 and 765–766]

Oath of Allegiance to the United States

Provost Marshalls Office
La Grange Tennessee November 19th 1862.

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies whether forerign or domestic.That I will render all due allegiance to the Federal authorities and use my best and most strenuous endeavor to put down armed rebellion against the same. That I will strive to protect the property and preserve the peace in the neighborhood where I reside. That I will not at any time hereafter take arms or in any manner aid or serve against the Government of the United States . That this oath is voluntarily taken and that I acknowledge without reservation the binding obligation of the same and the authority of the person administering it so to do.

So help me God.

(signed) F. D. Cossitt

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

Jno E Smith
Provost Marshal

5.9 Exhibit 8

[This document may be found in Images 209, 380, 432 and 656]

United States of America
No. 73
Oath of Allegiance

Provost Marshall's Office
La Grange Tenn June 9th 1863

I F. D. Cossitt do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and will only obey and maintain the Constitution and laws of the same, and will defend and support the said United States of America, against all enemies foreign and domestic and especially against the Rebellious league known as the Confederate States of America, so help me God.

F. D. Cossitt

Residence Chicago
Age – 41
Height – 5 – 10
Hair – Black
Eyes – Hazel

Sworn and subscribed before me this 9th of June 1863.

Guy S. Alexander
Lieut. – Provost Marshall

5.10 Exhibit 9

[This document may be found in Images 204, 348, 443 and 651]

La Grange Tenn.
June 15th 1862

F. D. Cossitt Esq.
LaGrange

Sir

Your share of the force for the repair of the R Road near this place is

- Ten Able Negro Hands
- One team of 3 yoke of oxen and driver

The hands and the team must be provided with supplies for three days.
I report at six oclock promptly, at the RR Depot in this place.
By order of the Major Genl Comdg
The time is at six oclock tomorrow morning.

Your Obdt Servt
J. H. Hammond
A. A. Genl

Note
Send with the team a log chain.
JHH

5.11 Exhibit 10

[This document may be found in Images 386 and 441]

Maj. Genl. W. T. Sherman
Letter –
Government matter

Mr. Frank Cossitt has been known to me since June last as a reliable Union man – I became acquainted with him at La Grange in the first occupation of that place by troops of the U. S. Army.

I have reason to believe that he has been always loyal to the Government and have received from him valuable information.

S. A. Hurlbut
Maj. Genl.

Jackson
Nov. 18 1862

5.12 Exhibit 11

[This document may be found in Images 315, 391, 655 and 758]

Head Quarters
16th Army Corps
April 14th 1863

Mr. Francis D. Cossitt of LaGrange Tenn, being about to remove to Chicago will be permitted to lease or sell his real estate in Lagrange, to any person he may choose and will not be molested in the use and Enjoyment of said property by any officer or soldier of this Command.

S. A. Hurlbut
Maj. Genl.

5.13 Exhibit 12

[This document may be found in Images 280]

Head Quarters
16th Army Corps
Memphis April 14th

Wm. Bross Esq.
Editor tribune

This will be handed to you by Mr. Francis D. Cossitt of La Grange Tenn. A gentleman whom I have known for a year past.

You will find him a good Union man and thoroughly acquainted with the State of things in this Country.

He moves to Chicago to go into business and I bespeak for him your kind offices.

Your obt Serv.
S. A. Hurlbut
Maj Genl

5.14 Exhibit 13

[This document may be found in Images 278 and 722]

Genl

Mr F. D. Cossitt of La Grange is I think a reliable Union man. I have so considered him for a year.

You will find him so in your experience.

I trust he will receive kindly treatment at your hand.

Yours truly
S A Hurlbut
Maj Genl

Nov 22

5.15 Exhibit 14

[This document may be found in Images 207, 282, 373 and 654]

Fond dulac Wis
Apr 1st 1864

I certify that I have known Mr F D Cossitt of the La Grange Tenn since November 1862.

I have at all times found him a reliable & thoroghly loyal Union man from whom I have received much useful information at times and have always found his sympathies were with the union Government, and armies. To my Knowledge he has been a great sufferer in property from Rebels because of his loyalty, as also from our own armies which for some timeoccupied his plantations.

He is deserving of sympathy and reimbursement for his losses.

C S Hamilton
late Maj Gen
U S Vols

5.16 Exhibit 15

[This document may be found in Images 307, 374, 653 and 747]

License to Purchase Cotton

Mr. F. D. Cossitt having furnished Sufficient Evidence of his loyalty to the Govt of the U States is permitted to purchase Cotton in and around LaGrange.

All Cotton transported on Govt wagons will be confiscated.

John E. Smith
Pt Marshal
La Grange
Nov 22 62

5.17 Exhibit 16

[This document may be found in Images 299 and 740]

Office. Depot. Quartermaster
La Grange Tenn
Nov 22 62

Captain

The Bearer F D Cossitt Citizen of La Grange, owning the Plantation where Genl Hamilton has made his Head Quarters, has suffered very greatly, loosing all his stock forage, fences and cotton, he is as a Union man entitled to Valid Receipts for all damages due him. I ask that he may be receipted for by you for all Articles pertaining to your Department and that the Commissary do the same. I hope You will do all you can to assist him in settlng his Claim which from the Evidence I have I consider him justly entitled to Valid Receipts.

I Remain
Yr obdt servt,
E. V. Cherry

S S Metcalf
Capt & Chief Quarter Master
Seft Wing Army of the Tenn.

5.18 Exhibit 17

[This document may be found in Images 303, 346 and 744]

Head Quarters Gilberts Brigade 16th
Army Corps Memphis
Ten Nov 25th 63

Major General
F Steel Commanding
Army of Arkansas

General

Permit me the pleasure of introducing to your acquaintance Mr. F. D. Cossitt who visits your place on business any favors shown him will be appreciated by him. Mr. C is a loyal man.

I am General Very Respectfully
Yours etc. etc.
James Gilbert
Col. 27th Force
Comp Brigade

To Major General
F Steel Commanding
Army of Arkansas

5.19 Exhibit 18

[This document may be found in Images 301, 399, 655 and 743]

Ottawa Ills April 9th 1864

I certify on honor, that I knew Mr. F. D. Cossitt in Tennessee – he residing at La Grange. That I know that he rendered such aid to the Federal authorities as was in his Power – furnishing subsistence to the extent of his means. Next he was considered, and as far as I can judge was a friend to the United States Authority. I have no hesitation in saying that all property authentication papers signed by Officers and Agents of the United States should be in his case respected, and promptly disposed.

Milo. A. W. Cushman
Late Col. Commanding 53 Ten. Vol.

5.20 Exhibit 19

[These two documents are similar and dated identically, but indications are that the first below is the actual Exhibit 19]

[This document may be found in Images 208, 297, 378, 655 and 738]

Head Qarters 1st Div 16th A. C.
Lagrange Tenn Apl 8th 1863

Permission is hereby granted to Mr. F. D. Cossitt to dispose of and sell all Real estate and personal property in his right and possession in LaGrange Tenn.

Wm Sooy Smith Brig Genl
Comdg 1st Div

m

[This document may be found in Images 207, 295, 376, 654 and 737]

Head Qarters 1st Div 16th A. C.
Lagrange Tenn Apl 8th 1863

Permission is hereby granted to Mr. F. D. Cossitt to ship his household Furniture (useful and ornamental) to Chicago Ills and also to move his Family there.

Wm Sooy Smith Brig Genl
Comdg 1st Div

5.21 Exhibit 20 (was Exhibit 9)

[This document may be found in Images 414 and 422]

Fayette County Tenn Nov 6th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of the United States the following Supplies viz.

(1) one load of Fodder estimated at (300) three hundred pounds and valued at (75) seventy five cents per hundred pounds.

(1) one load of corn estimated at (15) fifteen bushels valued at (25) twenty five cents per bushel.

B. Williams Lt &
A. R. Q. M. 8th Wis Vol

5.22 Exhibit 21 (was Exhibit 10)

[This document may be found in Images 418 and 426]

Fayette County Tenn Nov 10th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division that I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of United States the following Supplies viz.

(1) one load of corn estimated at (15) fifteen bushels and valued at (25) twenty five cents per bushel

B. Williams Lt &
A. R. Q. M. 8th Wis Vol

5.23 Exhibit 22 (was Exhibit 11)

[This document may be found in Images 353 and 416]

Fayette County Tenn Nov 7th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division that I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of United States the following Supplies viz.

(1) one load of fodder estimated at (300) three hundred pounds and valued at (75) seventy five cents per hundred lbs.

(1) one load of corn estimated at (15) fifteen bushels and valued at (25) twenty five cents per bushel.

B. Williams LT. &
A. R. Q. M. 8th B Wis Vol

5.24 Exhibit 23 (was Exhibit 12)

[This document may be found in Images 331, 424 and 771]

Fayette County Tenn Nov 9th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division that I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of tenn for the use of the United States the following supplies viz.

(1) one load of fodder estimated at (300) three hundred pounds and valued at (75) seventy-five cents per hundred lbs.

B. Williams Lt. &
A.R.Q.M. 8th B Wis Vol

5.25 Exhibit 24 (was Exhibit 13)

[This document may be found in Images 354 and 420]

Fayette County Tenn
Nov 12th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd Brigade 2nd Division that I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of tenn for the use of the United States the following supplies viz.

(1) one load of corn estimated at (15) fifteen bushels and valued at (25) twenty five cents per bushel.

B. Williams Lt &
A. R. Q. M. 8th B Wis Vol

5.26 Exhibit 25 (was Exhibit 14)

[This document may be found in Images 357 and 395]

Fayette County Tenn. Nov 10th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. John Mason Loomis Commanding 2nd brigade 2nd Division that I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County State of Tenn for the use of the United States the following supplies, viz.

- (1) one load of fodder estimated at (300) three hundred pounds and valued at (75) seventy five cents per hundred pounds
- (1) one load of corn estimated at (15) fifteen bushels and valued at (25) twenty five cents per bushel.

B. J. Williams Lt. &
A.R.Q.M. 8th R Wis Vol

5.27 Exhibit 26 (was Exhibit 4)

[This document may be found in Images 333, 369 and 773]

Fayette Co Tenn Nov 7 1862

This certifies that by authority of J. Mc Arthur Brig. Gen Commdg, 6th Div Army of the Tennessee.

I have taken the following from F.D. Cossitt of fayette County, State of Tennessee for the use of the United States, the following supplies, viz.

2 two loads corn and fodder estimated at 30 thirty bushels & valued at 25 twenty-five cents per bushel.

Lt. E. F. Conyngham
Acting Q.M. 16th Regt. Iowa Vols.

5.28 Exhibit 27 (was Exhibit 19)

[This document may be found in Images 363 and 401]

December the 14 1862 La. Grange. Tenn.
5 reg Ohio Cav

Received of Mr. F. D. Cossitt
ten loads of corn 8 bushels to the load and two stacks of hay

Ok Enos P Searls
Wagon Master
5 reg. 6 N. C.

5.29 Exhibit 28 (was Exhibit 18)

[This document may be found in Images 335, 361 and 775]

Fayette County Tenn
Near Grand Junction Nov 6, 1862

This is to certify that by authority Lieut. Col. Sheine Comdg 13th Iowa Vol Infty 3rd Brigade 6th Division Army of the Tennessee I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County Tenn for the use of the United States the following supplies viz.

Five loads corn estimated at 15 bushels each and valued at 25 cts per bushel..

R. Kenedy Qmaster 13th Iowa
by Leslie Bassett, 1st Lt.
Company K 13th Iowa Infty.

5.30 Exhibit 29 (was Exhibit 8)

[This document may be found in Images 337, 351, 777 and 779]

November 17th 1862

Rc of F. D. Cossitt

(255) two hundred & fifty-five bushels of corn & (1600) sixteen hundred lbs fodder for the use of the 2nd Iowa Cav.

J F Stouffer
Wagon Master
2nd Iowa Cav.

5.31 Exhibit 30 (was Exhibit 17)

[This document may be found in Images 339, 359 and 779]

Fayette County Tennessee Nov 7th 1862

This certifies that by authority Col. John M Loomis, Comdg 2nd Brig 2 Div I have taken from F D Cossitt of Fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of the United States the following supplies, viz.

2 Two Loads of fodder estimated at 300 three hundred pounds per load and value at 75 cts per hundred pounds.

1 One Load of Corn in husk estimated at 15 fifteen Bushels and values at 25 cts twenty five cents per bushel.

Lt. C. E. Spring
QM 26th Ills Regt

Payable at the close of the War according to the Laws of the United States then in force.

5.32 Exhibit 31 (was Exhibit 16)

[This document may be found in Images 405 and 410]

Fayette County Tennessee Nov 10th 1862

This is to certify that by authority of Col. John M. Loomis I have taken from FD Cossitt of fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of the United States the following Supplies, viz.

1 one load of fodder estimated at 300 three hundred pounds and valued at 75 seventy five cents per hundred pounds.

1 one load of Corn in the husk and estimated at 15 fifteen bushels and valued at 25 twenty five cents per Bushel.

300 three hundred pounds of hay valued at 70 seventy cents per hundred.

Lt. C. E. Spring
Q M 26th Ills

Payable at the Close of the War according to the Laws of the United States then in force.

5.33 Exhibit 32 (was Exhibit 15)

[This document may be found in Images 403 and 412]

Fayette County Tennessee
near Grand Junction November 6th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. John M Loomis Comdg 2nd Brig 2 Div I have taken from FD Cossitt of fayette County State of Tennessee for the use of the United States the following Supplies viz.

1 one load of Fodder estimated at 300 three hundred pounds and valued at 75 seventy five cents per hundred pounds.

1 load of Corn estimated at 15 fifteen bushels valued at 25 cents per bushel.

Lt. C. E. Spring
Q M 26th Ills Infty

5.34 Exhibit 33 (was Exhibits 5 and 6)

[This document may be found in Images 329, 397 and 769]

Lagrange Tenn Nov 11 62

Received of F. D. Cossitt
1 Load of corn, four loads of fodder
Bushels of corn in the ear taken for the use of U. S. gov by order

E. D. Ostrand Capt.
Co A 4th Ill Cav.

True copy
Chas. F. Benjamin
Clerk Commrs. of Claims

[This document may be found in Images 326, 388 and 768]

Lagrange Miss Nov 7 1862

Received of F. D. Cossitt

- three loads of hay
- three of fodder
- seven loads of corn

taken for the use of the U.S. Government.
This receipt not transferrable.

E. D. Ostrand
Co A 4th Ill Cavalry

True copy
Chas F. Benjamin
Clerk of Commrs of Claims

5.35 Exhibit 34 (was Exhibit 7)

[This document may be found in Images 341 and 408]

Fayette County Tennesse
Near Grand junction, Nov. 6th 1862

This certifies that by authority of Col. G. W. Deitzler 1st Kan. Vol. Commanding 1st Brig. 6th Div. Army of the Tenn. I have taken from F. D. Cossitt of Fayette County, State of Tenn. for the use of the United States the following supplies, viz.

Two (2) loads of Corn estimated at fifteen (15) bushels each and valued at 25 cts. per bushel.

OK J. E. Jones Lt. &
Qr. Mr. 16th Regt. Wis. Vols.

Scribner Q. M. S.

5.36 Exhibit 35 (was Exhibit 20)

[This document may be found in Images 304 and 749]

Rec'd of F. D. Cossitt one steer (beef) for the use of the United States Army.

Nov.14th 1862
Joshua Ricketts 2nd Lt.
Co. C Eng. Reg. Of the West

5.37 Exhibit A

[This document may be found in Images 435]

[written on the back of a copy of Exhibit 5]

Washington DC
June 28, 1876

Respectfully referred to Capt. Benner who will please advise me if he has the original paper, of which the within is a true copy.

Mr. F. D. Cossitt was today examined here before the Commissions of Claims and testified that he handed you the original paper (as I suppose to show you as a qr. mr. that he had permission from Genl. McPherson to retain three mules) and he says that you retained the original paper but that he took the precaution to take a true copy which he produced in evidence today.

If you can find the original please send it to me at once to file before the Commissioners. If you have lost or mislaid the paper please give me your recollection on the subject and greatly oblige.

Yours truly
Richard McAllister (Atty)
1328 New York Avenue

PS. Please return this paper with your reply. I am in receipt of yours of 21st inst. for which please accept my thanks.

Exhibit A
Oct. 17 1876

5.38 Exhibit B

[This document may be found in Images 436–437]

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
July 6th, 1876

Richard McAllister, Esq.

Dear Sir; your favor of the 28th inst., received, containing copy of order of maj. Gen. McPherson of which a copy was served on me according to the testimony of Mr. Cossitt, which order allowed Mr. Cossitt to retain a certain number of mules for use on his plantation. You wish to know if I have retained a copy of the order; or if not what my recollection of the circumstances is. I will state that I have not a copy of the order among my papers nor do I recollect of Mr. Cossitt handing me such an order; but it may be possible he did, as fourteen years interval is a long time to remember. Not being subject directly to the orders of Gen. McPherson, but being directly under the orders of Gen. Grant, through his Chief Quarter master, Col. Charles S. Reynolds, as will appear from the subjoined orders, I would, had I received such an order, have referred it to Col. Reynolds, for his instructions; and had Col. Reynolds refrred it back to me for execution, I would handed it over to the officer who relieved me two days afterwards, as will be apparent from the annexed order, for his guidance and protection. This is a plain statement of the manner that the order passed out of my hands, if it ever had been in my possession; and I am sorry that I cannot be of any more assistance to Mr. Cossitt, for I consider him now as I have always considered him, a loyal man, and one well entitled to the favor of the government.

I am very respectfully
your obdt servant,
D. J. Benner

[copy of order relieving D. J. Benner from duty]

Head Quarters, 15th Army Corps,
Department of Tennesse
Lagrange, Tenn. Nov 22d, 1862

Special Order
No. 25

Captain D. J. Benner, Asst. Quartermaster, is hereby assigned to duty with Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut and will immediately report accordingly.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant
(signed) Jno. A. Rawlings
Ast. Adj't Generals

[copy of order from Col. C. S. Reynolds]

Chief Quartermaster's Office
Lagrange, Tenn. Nov. 22, 1862.

Captain,

Captain D. J. Benner, A.Q.M., is relieved from duty at this Post and ordered to report to Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut. You will receive all means of transportation and all Quartermaster property that he is to turn over to you, giving receipts therefor.

Very respectfully
Your obdt servant
C. S. Reynolds
Lt. Col. & Q. Mr.

Capt. L. S. VanVliet
A. Q. M.

In explanation of these orders, I will state that when Gen. Hurlbut was ordered from Jackson, Tenn., to Memphis, I was ordered to accompany him by the above order of Gen. Grant, and I immediately transferred all property to my successor, and if Mr. Cossitt handed me such an order as he says, I either handed it over to Capt. VanVliet, with Col. Reynolds approval, or Col. Reynolds took action himself upon it.

D. J. Benner

Chapter 6

Miscellaneous Papers

6.1 Certifications

6.1.1 Request for Signature Verifications

[This document may be found in Images 319–320 and 762]

War Department
Quartermaster General's Office,
Washington, D. C., June 3rd, 1876

To the
Second Auditor of the Treasury

Sir:

I have the homor to request the verification of the signatures of officers named below; attached to the inclosed receipts which are presented in support of a claim in favor of Franklin D. Cossitt, citizen.

E. D. Osband, Capt., 4 Ill Cav.
C. E. Spring, Lieut. & RQM 26 Ills. Infantry.
B. S. Williams, Lieut. & A.RQM 8 Wisc. Infantry.
J. F. Conyngham, Lieut. & A.RQM 16 Iowa Infantry.
J. E. Jones, Lieut. & RQM 16 Wisc Infantry.
Leslie Bassett, Lieut. 13 Iowa Infantry.
Enos J. Searle, Wagon master, 5th Ohio Cavalry.
J. F. Stouffer, Wagon master, 2d Iowa Cavalry.

By order of the Quartermaster General.

Very respectfully,
Your obdt. servt.
Henry Hodges
Quartermaster, U. S. A.

6.1.2 Signature Verification

[This document may be found in Image 453]

(Office Form 54.)
Treasury Department
Second Auditor's Office.
June 14th, 1876

Sir:

From evidence on file in this Office, the signatures of
E. D. Osband, Capt., 4 Ill Cav.
C. E. Spring, Lt., 26 Ill Inft.
B. S. Williams, Lt., 8 Wis Inft.
J. F. Conyngham, Lt. 16 Iowa Inft.
J. E. Jones, Lt., 16 Wis Inft.
Leslie Bassett, Lt. 13 Iowa Inft.
Enos J. Searle, Wagon master, 5th Ohio Cav.
J. F. Stouffer, Wagon master, 2d Iowa Cav.
to receipts in the case of Franklin D. Cossitt, citizen, may be considered genuine.

Respectfully,

E. B. Finch,
Auditor.

By J. C. Saunce

To the
Quartermaster General,
U. S. Army

6.1.3 Request for Signature Verification

[This document may be found in Images 287 and 731]

War Department
Quartermaster General's Office
Washington, D. C. June 3 1876

To the
Adjutant General
U. S. Army

General:

I have the honor to request the verification of the signature of officers named below attached to the inclosed receipt presented in support of a claim in favor of F. D. Cossitt, citizen.
A. B. Stage, Lieut. & Actg Post Qu. Mr. La Grange Tenn.

By order of the Quartermaster General
Very respectfully, your obd't servt
Henry Hodges
Quartermaster, U. S. A.

6.1.4 Signature Verification

[This document may be found in Images 288 and 732]

June 3 1876

Quartermaster General

For verification of signature of N. B. Stage Lieut actg Post Qm La Grange Tenn: claim of F. D. Cossitt

War Department
Adjutant General's Office

Respectfully returned to the Quartermaster General USA.

Roll of field and staff 126th Ills. Vols. For Nov and Dec 1862 reports Napoleon B. Stage 1st Lieut and A.Q.M. "Detached from regt as Post Quartermaster from 14th 31st Dec."

Station, La Grange Tenn.

The signature, puporting to be his to the inclosed memorandum receipt appears to be genuine.

Thoma M Shuernt
Asst. Adjutant Genl

Quartermaster General's Office
Washington D.C. July 24 1876

Respectfully forwarded to the Commissioners of Claims to whom the papers in the case of Franklin D. Cossitt were transmitted June 28th 1876.

By order of the Quartermaster General
Henry Hodges
Deputy Quartermaster General USA

No. 20459
Franklin D. Cossitt
Fayette County Tenn.

6.2 Letters

6.2.1 Letter from Quartermaster General

[This document may be found in Images 272–273 and 718–719]

War Department
Quartermaster General's Office
Washington, D. C. June 3rd 1876

To the
Third Auditor of the Treasury

Sir:

I have the honor to request a statement of any property purchased or taken from F. D. Cossitt, as shown by the official returns of the following named officers from Noember 1862 to November 1863.

- E. D. Osband Capt 4th Ills Cavalry
- Raymond W. Handford, Lieut, A.Q.M. 4th Ills Cavalry
- C. S. Spring, Lieut & A.Q.M. 26th Ills Infnty
- P. S. Williams, Lieut & A.Q.M. 8th Wis Infnty
- J. F. Conyngham, Lieut & A.Q.M. 16th Iowa Infnty
- J. E. Jones, Lieut & A.Q.M. 16th Wisc Infnty
- Leslie Bassett, Lieut & A.Q.M. 13th Iowa Infantry
- Richard Kennedy, Lieut & A.Q.M. 13th Iowa Infantry
- Alfred N. Robinson, Lieut & A.Q.M. 5th Ohio Cavalry
- P. Frank Diffenbacker, Lieut & A.Q.M. 2nd Iowa Cavalry

Also to be informed whether the money accounts of the following named officers show any payments made to the above mentioned F. D. Cossitt, during the periods set opposite their names.

- Thos. O'Brien, Capt & A.Q.M. Dec 1862 to Jan'y 1863.
- S. S. Metcalf, Capt & A.Q.M. Nov 1862 to Dec 1862.
- A. Finch, Lieut to A.Q.M. 16th Ohio Infnty, Nov 1862 to Dec 1862.
- Jas. A. Swaine, Capt & A.Q.M., Nov 1862 to Mch 1863.
- J. V. Lewis, Capt & A.Q.M., Dec 1862 to Apl 1864.

By order of the Quartermaster General.

Very respectfully,
Your obdt. Servt,
Henry Hodges
Quartermaster, U.S.A.

6.2.2 Response to Quartermaster General

[This document may be found in Images 275 and 721]

All Official Letters to this Office must be addressed to the "Third Auditor of the Treasury" and in replying to Letters from this Offcie, the initials on the upper left-hand corner should be referred to.

Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Offcie
Washington, D. C. July 27, 1876

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 3rd ult. Herewith returned, I have to inform you that the property returns and money accounts of the officers named on file in this office for the periods stated show no property purchased or taken from, or payments made to F. D. Cossitt.

Respectfully,
Horace Austin
Auditor

Q.M. General
U.S.A.
Washington, D. C.

6.2.3 Submittal of Claim to Quartermaster General

[These documents may be found in Images 166-169 and 613–615]

Washington D.C. April 4, 1876

Major Genl. W. C. Meigs, Qr. Mr. Genl. U.S.A.

General,

I have the honor to present for your official action the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt, now of Chicago, Ills., and formerly of La Grange Tennessee for Qr. Mr. Stores taken by the U.S. Army and am'g to the sum of $23,833.00.

In support of this claim I offer you

1. The sworn petition of Franklin D. Cossitt and 2 witnesses.
2. To establish claimant's loyalty I offer you copies of original letters and orders of the following officers viz.: J. H. Hammond, a.a. Genl., W. T. Sherman, Maj. Genl., Jos. B. McPherson, Maj. Genl. Cmdg., S. A. Hurlbut Maj. Genl., John E. Smith, P. Marshal, C. S. Hamilton late Maj. Genl., Wm. Lovy Smith Brig. Genl. Cmdg. 1st Div, M. U. H. McCushman late Col. Commanding 53 Ills. Vol., an oath of allegiance dated June 9, 1863, James J. Gilbert Col. 27th Iowa Cmdg. Brigade. The originals of these papers are filed before the Commissioner of claims in claim No. 20,459 in farm of Franklin D. Cossitt. I also file an original oath of allegiance dated Nov. 19, 1862 by claimant and taken before Jno.

E. Smith Provost Marshal. Also ten original letters from Maj. Genl. S. A. Hurlbut. Also, an original letter from Maj. Genl. C. S. Hamilton. Also an original letter E. V. Cheny Lt & Q a 2 Ill. In proof of loyalty I also file the affadavits of Newitt Harris, Henry W. Rossiene, M. P. Pullian, Richard H. Parham.

3. To establish claimant's claim of property taken I offer you copies of receipts from No to 19 inclusive. The originals of these are filed before the Commissioner of Claims in claim No. 20,459 in farm of Franklin D. Cossitt.

I also offer you the affadavits of Alexander P. Rose, Edward M. Myrick, Susan E. Myrick, Franklin D. Cossitt, William Cossitt, Harrison Cossit, Adam Morton.

The first items in the petition (see Exhibit No. 1) were taken by the troops under the command of Genl. C. S. Hamilton. I respectfully suggest that you cause a letter to be addressed to him at his home in Fond Du Lac Wisconsin for his recollection on the subject – and his opinion as to claimant's loyalty.

The second items (see Exhibit No. 2) were taken by the troops under the command of Maj. Genl. McPherson. He is dead but see his order in the exhibit to Qr. Mr. To investigate and settle the acct.

I believe all the rest of the items are receipted for.

I have the honor to request that you will please send this case as soon as possible to one of your agents, for investigation and report. I would be particularly pleased if you would instruct your agent to visit the three plantations near La Grange Tenn. From which the Stores were taken and pursue his investigation on the spot. I am sure that Mr. Cossitt has made up his claim much below his true loss.

This claim was officially filed before the Southern Claims Commission, consolidated with his claim for Subsistence supplies, but that Commission in all claims exceeding $10,000 require the claimant and his witnesses to appear before them in person and this claimant has been so impoverished by his losses in Tennessee and by the great fire in Chicago as to be unable to bear the expense of bringing all his witnesses here, he has under my advice discontinued his claims before said Commission and elects to pursue his claims before the Commissary general and yourself under the Act of July 4, 1864 and Feb. 28, 1866. As various causes beyond my control have delayed this claim so long I now most respectfully request that it may be examined and acted upon at your very earliest convenience.

I am, most respectfully yr. mt. obd. Srvt,
Richard McAllister
Atty for
Franklin D. Cossitt

On back of last page:

3995

Q. M. GEN'S OFFICE
RECEIVED APR 8 1876

Letter of Richard McAllister
Attorney for
Franklin D. Cossitt
of
Chicago Illinois
late of
La Grange Tennessee
Transmitting
Mr. Cossitt's claim for
Quarter Masters Stores
With the Accompanying Evidence

6.2.4 Claim before Quartermaster General April 4, 1876

[This document may be found in Images 265–270 and 712–717]

State of Illinois
County of Cook

Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County Franklin D. Cossitt, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the County of Cook, and State of Illinois; that the annexed account is correct and just; that he has made no charge therein for damages, or for losses sustained by thefts, or depredations committed by troops; that the stores, as above enumerated, were taken from him in the County of Fayette, and State of Tennessee, on or about the Months of November & December, 1862, by Genl. C. S. Hamilton, Maj Gen James B. McPherson, Brig Gen J. McArthur & other officers mentioned above for the use of, and were used by the United States army; that the value thereof was Twenty three Thousand Eight Hundred & Eighty-three dollars, which amount he claims under Act of July 4, 1864, and hereby makes application for the same; he further says that Several receipts or vouchers have been received therefor and are herewith filed as Exhibits which are duly referred to above, that no payment has been made, or compensation received in any way, or from any source whatever, for the whole or any part of said claim; that it has not been transferred to any person whomsoever; that the rates or prices charged are reasonable and just, and do not exceed the market rate or price of the stores at the time and place stated; that the Wood herein charged was the Rail Fencing around the several plantations and the Twenty Acres of Standing Timber was cut on the Myrick farm, and I, Franlin D. Cossitt do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing

rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court; and I will in like manner abide and faithfully support all proclamations of the President, made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as ot modified or declared void by the decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.

And I hereby constitute and appoint Richard McAllister of Washington, D.C., my true and lawful Attorney irrevocable, with full power of substitution, for me and in my name, place and stead, to prosecute this claim, hereby annulling and revoking all former Powers of Attorney or authorizations whatever in the premises, and to the receive and receipt for any draft or certificate to my order that may issue in payment thereof.

Franklin D. Cossitt

1. James A. Fisher
2. George W. Wells

Also, personally appeared before me James A. Fisher and George W. Wells, citizen of the County of Cook and the State of Illinois who, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say that they have carefully read the foregoing affidavit of Franklin D. Cossitt, and to the best of their knowledge and belief the facts therein stated are true, and the stores charged for, namely:

The United States

To Franklin D. Cossitt Dr.

1862 Nov 1st to 30th

10 Mules 150$ each	1500.00
9000 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	900.00
15,000 lbs Hay $1.00 per 100 lbs	150.00
2625 Bushels of Corn taken from field 80¢ per Bushel	2100.00
1125 Bushels of Corn taken from Cribs $1 per Bushel	1125.00
12 Hoes, 12 Axes, 6 Spades, 12 Bridles	75.00

The foregoing property was taken by Troops under the Command of Genl.C. S. Hamilton U.S.A. From the 1st to 30th of November 1862 from Claimants Plantation Known as the Myrick Place See Exhibit No. 1

1862 Nov 1st to 13th

For 63 Stacks=94500 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	945.00
46 Stacks=46000 lbs Hay & Pea Vines $1.00 per 100 lbs	460.00
7 Stacks=7000 lbs Hay & Pea Vines $1.00 per 100 lbs	70.00
400 Acres Corn 10000 Bushels 80¢ per Bushel	8000.00
16 Mules $150.00 each	2400.00
17 Setts of Gears $5.00 per Sett	85.00

The foregoing property was taken from Claimants place Known as "Urquhart Plantation" by Troops under the Command of Maj Genl James B McPherson U. S. A. From the 1st to 13th of November 1862 Memorandum taken at the time and Signed by Genl McPherson herewith attached Marked Exhibit No. 2.

1862 Nov 20th

For 19 Mules $150.00 each	850.00

This property was taken by Troops under the Command of Major Genl James B. McPherson about 20th of November 1862. See copy of Genl McPhersons Certificate herewith filed and marked as Exhibit No. 3 the original of which was handed by Claimant to Capt Benson formerly of Genl S. A. Hurlbuts Staff.

For 2 loads = 30 Bushels Corn $1.00 per Bushel	30.00
For 2 loads = 2000 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	20.00

This property was taken by Lt. L. F. Conynham Acting Quartermaster of the 16th Regt Iowa Vols by Command of Brig Genl J. McArthur Comdg 6th Division Army of the Tennesse see Exhibit No. 4 dated November 7th 1862 when property was taken.

For 3 loads=4500 lbs Hay $1.00 per 100 lbs	45.00
For 7 loads=7000 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	70.00
For 8 loads=200 Bushels Corn $1.00 per 100 lbs	200.00

This property was taken by E. D. Ostrand Capt. Comdg Co A 4th Ills Cavalry see Exhibits 5 & 6.

For 2 loads=30 Bushels Corn $1.00 per Bushel	30.00

This property was taken 6th November 1862 J. E. Jones Lt. & QM 16th Wis Vols see Exhibit No. 7.

For 255 Bushels of Corn $1.00 per Bushel	255.00
For 1600 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	16.00

This property was taken 17th November 1862 by J. H. Stouffer Wagon Master 2nd Iowa Cavalry see Exhibit No. 8.

For 4 loads=1200 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	12.00
For 5 loads=75 Bushels Corn $1.00 per Bushel	75.00

This property was taken on the 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th & 12th days of November 1862 by B. S. Williams Lt. A. R. 20M 8th Wis Vols by authority of Col John Mason Loomis Comdg 2nd Brigade 2nd Division "Army of the Tennessee" See Exhibits Nos. 9-10-11-12-13 and 14.

For 4 loads=1200 lbs Fodder $1.00 per 100 lbs	12.00
For 3 loads=45 Bushels Corn $1.00 per Bushel	45.00
For 300 lbs Hay $1.00 per 100 lbs	3.00

This property was taken 6th, 7th, and 10th November 1862 by Lieut. C. E. Spring QM 26th Ills Infantry by authority of Col John Mason Loomis Comdg 2nd Brig 2nd Division Army of the Tennessee see Exhibits 15-16 and 17.

For 2 loads=30 Bushels of Corn $1.00 per Bushel	30.00

This property was taken 6th November 1862 by R. Kennedy QM 13th Iowa Inft as per Certificate of Leslie Passett 1st Lt. Co K 13th Iowa Inft see Exhibit No. 18.

For 10 loads=80 Bushels Corn $1.00 per Bushel	80.00
For 2 Stacks=3000 lbs Hay $1.00 per 100 lbs	30.00

This property was taken 14th day of Decr 1862 by Enos Searls Wagon Master 5th Regt OVC. See Exhibit No. 19.

To Amount of Dry fencing hauled off and Consumed by U. S. Troops as follows:

On the Myrick place

35,000 Rails 100 Rails to the cord of Wood Dry =	
350 Cords Dry Wood 3$ per Cord	1050.00

On Urquhart place

14000 Rails 100 Rails to Cord of Wood=	
140 Cords Wood $3.00 per Cord	420.00

On the Adams place

5000 Rails 100 Rails to Cord of Dry Wood=	
50 Cords $3.00 per Cord	150.00
For 20 Acres of Standing Timber 30 Cords per Acre=	
600 Cords Standing Timber $ 1.00	600.00
	23,833.00

Proof as to the Rails and Standing Timber will be found in the testimony of Edward Myrick & Susan E. Myrick, F. D. Cossit and Wm Cossitt. The Rails and Timber were not included in the claim made before the Southern Claim Commission because Claimant understood that they were not embraced in the Law.

Here see the separate affidavits of Newitt Harris, Henry W. Rossiene, M. P. Pulliam, Richard H. Parham, Alexander P. Rose, Edward M. Myrick, Susan E. Myrick, William Cossitt, and Harrison Cossitt as to the Claimants loyalty and to the value and taking of his property by the United States Troops.

Were delivered, as stated, for the use of the United States army, and the charges were the market price at the time of said delivery; they further say that they are well acquainted with the said claimant, and know that he

was, at the time his claim originated, and has been ever since, loyal to the United States; they know the facts stated in the above affidavit are true, because we have been intimately acquainted with him for the last eleven years, and have often heard him express loyalty to the US government. We have had transactions of long standing with him involving many intricate business matters, and have always found him highly honorable and in every way worthy of confidence and esteem, and do not believe that he would present an unjust claim against any one, and that they have no interest in the above claim.

James A. Fisher
George W. Wells

O.W. Ballard
Late Major & Paymaster USA

Sworn to, acknowledged and subscribed before me at My office in Chicago, the 29th day of March, 1876, and I certify I have no interest in the above claim.

As witness my hand and official Seal

Calem DeWolf, J. P.

I certify that I am Post Master at Chicago Ills and am well acquainted with the above named deponent; that Franklin D. Cossitt, the claimant, to the best of my knowledge and belief, was, at the time the foregoing account originated, has been ever since, and is now, loyal to the United States; that Jas. A. Fisher and George W. Wells are respectable, worthy, and entitled to credit.

Dated at Chicago
the 1st day of April, 1876

John McArthur P.M.

State of Illinois
County of Cook

I, Hermann Lieb, Clerk of the County Court, in and for the said County, certify that Franklin D. Cossitt is a citizen of the County of Cook, and State of Illinois and that he is respectable, and entitled to credit. I also certify that the above is the genuine signature of Calvin DeWolf, Esq. who was at the time of subscribing the same a duly qualified Justice of the Peace in and for said County, and that his official acts are entitled to full faith and credit and that his signature is genuine.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said County Court at Chicago, the 1st day of April, 1876.

Herman Lieb,
Clerk of the County Court

Act July 4, 1864
Claim of
Franklin D. Cossitt
Cook Co. Ill.
For
Quarter Master Stores
for Mules, Forage, &c.
$23,833.00

Filed by
Richard McAllister
Washington, DC
Attorney

41 Encls.

6.2.5 Claim for Subsistence Supplies

This document may be found in Images 603–605

See the separate affidavits of Edward M. Myrick, Harrison Cossitt and William Cossitt as to the items taken and loyalty of claimant, in place of the usual affidavit here inserted in the petition; also affidavits of Newitt Harris et. als. and the Certificates of Maj. Genl. McPherson and others.

Sworn to, acknowledged and subscribed before me at LaGrange Tennessee, the 22nd day of January 1876, and I certify I have no interest in the above claim, witness my hand and Notaral Seal at Office.

T. J. Shelton Jr.,

I certify that I am Notary Public of the Fayette County Tennessee and am well acquainted with the above named deponents; that Franklin D. Cossitt the Claimant, was, at the time foregoing account originated, has been ever since, and is now, loyal to the United States; ....

State of Tennessee
County of Fayette

Personally appeared before, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County Franklin D. Cossitt who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the County of Cook, and State of Illinois; that the annexed account is correct and just; that he has made no charge therein for damages, or for losses sustained by thefts, or depredation committed by troops; that the store, as above enumerated, were taken from him in the County of Fayette, State of Tennessee, on or about the 1st to 30th day of

November, 1862, by Genl. C. S. Hamilton, James B. McPherson and others for the use of, and were used the United States army; that the value thereof was Ten Thousand and eighty-two 00/100 dollars, which amount he claims under Act of July 4, 1864, and hereby makes application for the same; he further states that receipt or voucher has been received therefor, that no payment has been made, or compensation received in any way, or from any source whatever, for the whole or any part of said claim; that it has not been transferred to any person or persons whomsoever; that the rates or prices charged are reasonable and just, and do not exceed the market rate or price of the stores at the time and place stated; that . . . and I, Franklin D. Cossitt do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the United States thereunder; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President, made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by the decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.

An I hereby constitute and appoint Richard McAllister Esq. of Washington, D.C., my true and lawful Attorney irrevocable, with full power of substitution, for me and in my name, place and stead, to prosecute this claim, hereby annulling and revoking all former Powers of Attorney or authorizations whatever in the premises, and to receive and receipt for any draft or certificate to my order that may issue in payment thereof.

Franklin D. Cossitt
Signature of Claimant

The United States

To Franklin D. Cossitt DR.

150 Bus. Sweet Potatoes $1.00	150.00
150 Fat Hogs = 22,500 Pds 10cts a Pd	2,250.00
17 Beef Cattle 600 Pds each 10200 Pds 7cts	714.00
250 Pds Brown Sugar 16cts	40.00
20 Galls Molasses $1 per Gall	20.00
100 Stock Hogs $5 each	500.00

This property was taken by troops under command of Genl C. S. Hammond Il Vols from 1st to 30th November 1862 from Claimants plantation “Myrick Place”

150 Fat Hogs = 22500 Pds 10cts	2,250.00
100 Stock Hogs worth $5 each	500.00
50 Cattle $40 each 10 Cows $30 10 Calves $10	2,360.00
25 Bus. Corn Meal $1 per Bus.	25.00
2 Sacks Salt $10 per sack	20.00
13 Bus. Peaches $1 per Bus.	13.00
1200 Bus. Sweet Potatoes $1.00	1,200.00

Taken from Claimants Place known as "Urquhart Plantation" by troops under command of genl McPherson from 1st to 30th November 1862.

1 Steer worth	40.00

This property was taken 14th Nov 1862 by Joshua Ricketts 2nd Lt. Co C Brig Regt of the West. "See Exhibit 20"

Total Amount of Claim =	$10,082.00

6.2.6 Letter from C. S. Hamilton

[This document may be found in Images 322 and 763]

Fond du Lac
Dec. 26 – 67

F. D. Cossitt Esq.
My Dear Friend,

I enclose you a printed article which may be of service to you in getting compensation for the stores taken from you at La Grange. I believe that for the sugar and molasses taken from your house and for the corn crops taken from your farms you can get payment is not already settled.

If I can aid you in any way you may command my services.

I suppose there is no such thing as indemnity for cotton or fences destroyed.

Please remember me cordially to your family and believe me.

Truly yours, signed C. S. Hamilton

A true copy of the original on file with the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt for Qr. Mr. Stores before the Qaurtermaster General.

April 4, 1876
Richard McAllister, Atty for
Franklin D. Cossitt

6.2.7 Request for Payment

[This document may be found in Image 455]

Washington, D.C. March 11, 1877

Hon. C. F. Conant
Asst. Secy. of the Treasury

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by my son who will request you to make special the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt late of Lagrange Tennessee and now of Chicago. This claim was allowed by the so-called Southern Claims Commissioners in their 6th Annual report and the money for its payment was appropriated by Congress by Act March 3rd 1877.

Mr. Cossitt writes me that the early receipt of the money will save him from much pecuniary embarrassment and this is only one of a number of claims which I will trouble you to make special.

Yours truly
Richard McAllister (Atty)

6.2.8 Request for Payment

[This document may be found in Images 457–458]

Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office.
March 12th, 1877

Hon. Horace Austen
Third Auditor
Washington DC

Sir

The claim No. 20459 in favor of F. D. Cossitt of Fayette Co. Tenn. allowed by Southern Claims Commission for $14,102.17 in support of the reason for marking the settlement of this case special I would state that as Mr. Cossitt's Attorney I am advised by him that some notes he has given in anticipation of the money will shortly fall due and if he does not receive the money without delay it will cause him great embarrassment and financial distress.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Very obt. servt,
Richard McAllister
Atty for F. D. Cossitt

6.2.9 Payment

[This document may be found in Images 459–460]

Claim No. 113163
Sett. No. 2466

Franklin D. Cossitt
Tenn.
$ 14,102.17
Due him
Out of the Appropriation for
"Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies
furnished during the rebellion."

For amount allowed him
by the Southern Claims Commision.

Reported March 13th 1877
Returned March 13, 1877
Requisition No. 2687. dated
March 14, 1877, transmitted for
Warrant March 15th, 1877.

The United States,
To Franklin D. Cossitt
Fayette Co. Tenn.

For the amount allowed him by Act of Congress, Private No. 70 approved March 3, 1877, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the payment of claims reported allowed by the Commisioners of Claims under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871:" to wit:

Fourteen thousand one hundred and two dollars and seventeen cents. $14,102.17

Payable in care of Richard McAllister Atty
Washington DC

Treasury Department
Second Comptroller's Office
March 13, 1877
A. Spalding,clerk

Treasury department
Third Auditor's Office
March 13, 1877
Coleman, clerk

6.2.10 Delay of Submittal

[This document may be found in Images 311 and 752]

Washington D.C. May 2nd 1876

Major general M. C. Meigs
Qr. Mr. General U. S. Army

General

In reply to yours of the 13th ult., requiring among other things, in the case of F. D. Cossitt of Cook Co. Ills. for property taken in Fayette County Tennessee "evidence fully and satisfactorily explaining the long delay in presenting the claim," I have now the honor to file the affadavit of the claimant and to which I call your particular attention.

As requested by Mr. Cossitt I now respectfully notify you that I submit the case upon the evidence filed and referred to and I ask its earliest consideration.

Richard McAllister, Atty for
Franklin D. Cossitt

6.3 Transfer of Claim From and To Commission

6.3.1 Letter to the Commissioners of Claims

[This document may be found in Image 393]

Chicago Illinois March 10th 1876

To the Commissioners of Claims under Act March 3, 1871

Gentlemen

My claim No. 20,459 for Qr Mr and Subsistence supplies amtg to $31,620.00. I have filed before the Quartermaster and Comy Genl where I have elected to prosecute the same.

You will please mark the same discontinued before you and oblige.

Yours truly
(sgd) Franklin D. Cossitt

In the presence of
1. David B. Lyman
2. N. C. Wheeler

6.3.2 Transfer from Commission

[This document may be found in Images 312–313 and 754–755]

20459
Franklin D. Cossitt
Fayette Co. Tenn.

Claimant asks discontinuance of case & states his purpose to prosecute the same before the Qr. Mr. & Comm'y Generals.

May 3, 1876. All the original receipts & certificates sent to Qr. Mr. Genl this day, in conformity to his request.

Chas. F. Benjamin
Clerk
Commrs of Claims

Chicago, Illinois, March 10th, 1876

To the Commissioners of Claims under Act March 3, 1871

Gentlemen,

My claim No. 20459 for Qr. Mr. and Subsistence Supplies amtg to $31,620.00 I have filed before the Quarter Master and Coms. Genl. where I have elected to prosecute the same.

You will please mark the same discontinued before you and oblige.

Yours truly
Franklin D. Cossitt

In the presence of
1. David B. Lyman
2. N. C. Wheeler

Washington D.C. April 4, 1876 To the Commissioners of Claims, &c.

Gentlemen, In accordance with the above I hereby request the discontinuance of the above claim before you and respectfully request the return of all the exhibits and papers filed in said case in order that I may file the same before the Qr. Mr. Genl. and Coms. Genl. of Subsistence U. S. Army. Your respectfuly, Richard McAllister, Atty for Franklin D. Cossitt

6.3.3 Transfer to Commission by Quartermaster General

[This document may be found in Images 292–293 and 735]

Washington, D. C. June 28th 1876

To the
Commissioners of Claims
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Referring to the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt of Cook County, Illinois, for Corn, Fodder, &c., stated at $23,833.00, and in reply to your letter of the 28th instant relative to the question of jurisdiction in the case, you are respectfully informed that I understand that this case was first filed before the Commissioners on Southern Claims. This, in my opinion, constitutes an election to proceed before that commision and this election, once made, should be adhered to. I have, therefore, returned the papers in the claim of Mr. Cossitt this day.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
[illegible signature]
Quartermaster General,
Bvt. Major General USA

[This document may be found in Image 383]

War Department
Quartermaster General's Office

Washington, D. C. June 28th 1876

To the Commissioners of Claims
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed papers in the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt of Cook County, Illinois, for Corn, Mules, &c., stated at $23,833.00 are respectfully returned to you, in compliance with request of this day.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
[illegible signature]
Quartermaster General,
Bvt. Major General USA

6.3.4 Transfer to Commision by Commissary General

[This document may be found in Images 309 and 750]

War Department
Office Commissary-General of Subsistence

Washington, D. C. July 3rd, 1876

Hon. Comissioners of Claims
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your request of the 30th ult indorsed upon letter from this Office to Richard McAllister, Attorney, June 26th, 1876, I herewith respectfully transmit the papers in the claim of Franklin D. Cossitt, of Cook Co. Ill for subsistence stores alleged to have been taken in Fayette Co. Tenn. — action in which was declined by this Office because the case had previously been brought before you for examination under the Act of March 3rd, 1871.

Very respectfully &c
R. Macfeely
Com.-Gen. Subs

6.3.5 Transfer of Papers to Commission from Quartermaster General

[This document may be found in Image 276]

July 27, 1876
Third Auditor
Statements from Officers
accounts related to the claim of
F. D. Cossitt

1st Endorsement

War Department
Quartermaster Genls Office
Washington, D.C. Augt 24 1876

Respectfully forwarded to the Commissioners of Claims to whom the papers in the case of Franklin D. Cossitt were transmitted June 28th 1876.

By order of the Quartermaster Gen'l
Henry Hodges
Deputy Quartermaster General
U. S. Army

20459
Franklin D. Cossitt
Fayette Co Tenn.

6.4 Miscellaneous Receipts and Papers

6.4.1 Mules on December 30 1862

[This document may be found in Images 285, 370 and 730]

La Grange Tenn. December 30th 1862

Received from Mr. F. D. Cossitt Four small mules in fair condition to be paid for by the United States six months after the establishment of Peace provided the said F. D. Cossitt proves himself to the proper authority to be a loyal citizen of the United States and has not aided or abetted the rebellion now existing.

Lt. N. B. Stage A. Post Q M
126th Ills Vols

6.4.2 List of Items Taken by Exhibit No.

[This note is found in Image 767]

Fodder

20	300 lbs.
22	300 lbs.
23	300 lbs.
25	300 lbs.
26	
29	1600 lbs.
30	300 lbs.
31	300 lbs.
32	300 lbs.
33	900 ibs.
	1200 lbs.
Total	5800 lbs.

[Exhibit 33 has 3 loads and 4 loads]

Corn

20	15 bus.
21	15 bus.
22	15 bus.
24	15 bus.
25	15 bus.
26	30 bus.
27	80 bus.
28	30 bus.
29	255 bus.
30	15 bus.
31	15 bus.
32	15 bus.
33	120 bus.
34	30 bus.
Total	665 bus.

Hay

27	2 stacks
31	300 lbs.
33	3 loads
Total	4200 lbs.

6.4.3 Report of Claim Resolution

This document may be found in Images 472–473

No. 20459

The Claim of Franklin D. Cossitt of Fayette Co in the State of Tennessee

No. of items: 42 items 1862 Nov. & Dec.
Nature of Claim: Amount of claim as per Statement in petition – hereto annexed in detail –
Amount Claimed: 31,620.00
Amount Allowed: 14,102.17
Amount Disallowed: 17,517.81

Mr. Cossitt was a native of Connecticut. At the age of fifteen he went to Tenn. He there became a merchant and planter. He owned four plantations, viz., "Myrick", "Urqhart", "Sykes", and "Adams", and 127 slaves. He never held any civil or military office in the Confederacy & it does not appear that he ever gave any aid or comfort to the Confederacy.

In the summer of 1862 he went to Bolivar where Generals Grant and McPherson were camped with their Army & Told them that the confederate forces did not amount to much & that they would have no difficulty in coming into and taking possession of the country. They had supposed that the confederate force was large. The next day Gen'l McPherson came

to Lagrange & took possession of the country. In Exhibit No. 2, Gen'l McPherson, under date of Nov. 13, 1862 says "Mr. Cossitt has rendered good service at different times and deserves compensation for articles taken from him."

Gen'l McPherson also under date of Nov. 5, 1862 "certifies that Mr. Cossitt has shown himself a good loyal man & has rendered important services to the Federal Cause." etc. —

Gen'l Hamilton, who for 6 weeks in Oct. & Nov. 1862 has his head quarters at his house, says -– "I have known Mr. Cossitt since Nov. '62 — have at all times found him a reliable & thoroughly loyal Union man, from whom I have received much useful information at times & have always found his sympathies with the Union Govt. & Armies." –

Gen'l Hurlbut, under date of Nov.18, 1862, says -– "Mr. Cossitt has been known to me since June last as a reliable Union man, – I became acquainted with him at Lagrange on the first occupation of that place by Union troops. I have reason to believe that he has always been loyal to the Govt. & have rereceived from him reliable information."

Gen'l Hurlbut was examined orally before us and his evidence is very full & satisfactory to prove Claimant's loyalty. We deem it sufficient to refer to it. — Many other papers are filed to show that other officers of our Army in 1862 regarded him as loyal. — He was threatened and molested by the rebels, & in April 1863 was obliged to leave. He went to Chicago where he has since resided. In regard to the necessity of his leaving Gen'l Hurlbut says -– "his life would not have been worth a straw outside of the range covered by the U. S. Troops." In June 1862 he was extrusted by Gen'l Sherman with the charge and repair of trestle work, which service he faithfully perfromed. See Gen'l Sherman's letter. Exhibits 6 & 7. —

Loyalty fully proved. —

As to the taking of the property. Gen'l Hamilton was camped on the Myrick place with a large body of troops in Oct. 1862 and staid about 7 weeks. — At the same time Gen'l McPherson with a still larger body of troops camped on the Urqhart place. The first 11 items & the items from 26 to 42 inclusive were all taken from the Myrick place, by the troops of Gen'l Hamilton in Nov. 1862.

Items 1 to 11 are shown by the evidence of Mr. Myrick, the superintendent of the Myrick place, also in part by Mr. Cossitt, and by the papers filed in the case which fully corroborate the testimony.

Items 26 to 42 are proved by receipts given at the time and which are proved and filed in the case. But a small part of the property taken from the Myrick place was receipted for. Exhibit 1 is a statement drawn up by Mr. Cossitt in Nov. 1862 from the declarations made by Mr. Myrick at the time. The Myrick place contained about 1000 acres of cultivated land.

Appendix A

Southern Claims Commission Questions

A.1 Question List 1871

A.1.1 Questions to be answered by claimants under oath

1. Where did you reside for six months prior to the 1st of April, 1861? Where were you in person during the said six months? What was your business or occupation during that period?

2. Where did you reside from the 1st of April, 1861, to the 1st of June, 1865? Where were you personally during that period? What was your business or occupation during that time? Did you change your residence during that time? If so, when, and where was your new residence?

3. Did you ever pass beyond the military or naval lines of the United States and enter the rebel lines? If so, how often, when, where, and for what purpose, and how long did you stay within the Confederate lines on each occasion?

4. Did you ever take any oath or affirmation to bear allegiance to the so-called Confederate States, or to aid or support them in any way, or to "bear true faith", or "yield obedience" to them? If so, when and where? State fully in regard to the same.

5. Have you ever taken any amnesty oath? If so, when, where, and under what condition? Have you been pardoned by the President? If so, when and where, and upon what conditions?

6. Were you ever directly or indirectly, or in any manner, connected with the civil service of the so-called Confederate States? If so, how, when, and

where, in what capacity and for what periods? Was any oath required of you for such service; and if so, what?

7. Did you ever hold any office or place of trust, honor, or profit under the Confederate Government, or under any of the States or territories subordinate thereto? If so, state the nature and character of the office, the place at which and the period for which you held it?

8. Did you hold any clerkship, or have any agency or employment of any kind, for, or under, or for the benefit of the so-called Confederate States? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

9. Were you ever, in any capacity, in the military or naval service of the so-called Confederate States, or of any State or territory subordinate thereto?

10. Were you ever an officer or soldier, sailor or marine of the Confederate army or navy, or did you ever furnish a substitute for the Confederate army or navy, or were you, directly or indirectly, in any way connected with, or employed by or under, or for either the commissary department, quartermaster's department, the medical department, the engineer's department, the ordnance department, the impressment service, the provost marshal's department, or any other bureau, branch, or department of the Confederate service? Did you at any time have charge of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army, navy, or government, or the charge or care of trains, team or teams, wagon or wagons, vessels, boats, or other craft, or munitions of war for the use of the Confederate army or navy? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

11. Were you ever in any service, employment or business of any kind whatsoever for the Confederate Government, or its army or navy? Did you ever furnish any aid, or any supplies or stores, or property of any kind to or for the so-called Confederate States, or any State in rebellion, or to the army, navy, militia, home-guards, armed forces, or military organizations thereof, or for any officer, soldier, or sailor thereof? If so, state fully in regard to the same. Did you ever give any information to any officer, soldier, or sailor of the Confederate army or navy, or to any person employed by, or for the so-called Confederate States, or acting on their behalf, or for their benefit, which might aid in any way any military or naval operations carried on against the United States? State fully in regard to the same.

12. Were you in any manner employed in the manufacture of munitions of war, of clothing, of boots, shoes, saddles, harness, or leather, of equipment for soldiers, or of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army or navy, or were you in any way employed by, or did you aid or assist others engaged in such manufacture? If so, state when and where, and by or for whom you were so employed, and for what period of time.

13. Were you ever, directly or indirectly, employed in the collection, impressment, or purchase, or the sale of stores, supplies, or any property for the

use or benefit of the Confederate Government, or any State in rebellion, or the army, navy, or other forces thereof? Did you have any interest or share in contracts with, or purchases for, the Confederate Government, or its army or navy, or any State in rebellion, or its forces? If so, state fully all particulars.

14. Were you ever engaged in blockade running or illicit traffic, or intercourse between the lines, or were you ever in any way interested therein? Did you ever have any interest or share in any goods, wares, merchandise, stores, or supplies brought into or exported from the so-called Confederate States during the war? If so, state fully all particulars.

15. Did you leave the so-called Confederate States between 19th of April, 1861, and 19th of April, 1865? If so, when and how did you leave; where did you go; for what purpose; how long were you absent; in what business were you engaged while absent, and when and to what place did you return in the so-called Confederate States?

16. Were you the owner, or part owner, or in any way interested in any vessel used in navigating the ocean to or from any port in the Confederacy, or upon any waters in the Confederacy; if so, what vessels, when and where employed, and in what business.

17. Were you ever arrested by the Confederate Government, or by any officer, soldier, or other person professing to act therefor, or for any State in rebellion; if so, when, where, by whom, and how long were you kept under arrest; how did you get released? Did you, for the sake of being released, or upon release, take any oath of any kind to the Confederate Government; if so, what? [Put the same questions as to arrest by the United States Government, etc.]

18. Was any of your property ever taken by the Confederate authorities, or by any officer, soldier, or other person acting or assuming to act on their behalf, or in behalf of any State in rebellion; if so, what property, when and for what use, and have you received pay therefor?

19. Were you ever threatened with damage, or injury to your person, family, or property on account of your Union sentiments; if so, state when, by whom, and what the threats were?

20. Were you ever molested or in any way injured on account of your Union sentiments? If so, state fully all the particulars.

21. Did you ever contribute anything –any money or property- in aid of the United States Government, or in aid of the Union army or cause? If so, state fully as to the same.

22. Did you ever do anything for the United States Government or its army, or for the Union cause during the war? If so, state fully what you did?

23. Had you any near relatives in either the Union or Confederate armies; if so, state who and how related to you. Did you contribute anything to supply them with military equipments, or with money? State fully as to the same.

24. Have you owned any Confederate bonds, or any interest or share therein; or had any share or interest in any loans to the Confederate Government; or did you in any way contribute to support the credit of the so-called Confederate States during the late rebellion?

25. Have you ever given aid and comfort to the rebellion? If so, state fully all the circumstances.

26. Were you ever engaged in making raids into the United States from Canada, or engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States in the lakes and rivers adjoining Canada? Were you ever engaged in holding in custody, directly or indirectly, any persons taken by the rebel Government as prisoners of war, or any persons imprisoned or confined by the Confederate Government, or the authorities of any State in rebellion, for political causes; if so, when, where, and under what circumstances; in what capacity were you engaged, and what was the name, rank, and command of your principal?

27. Were you ever a member of any society or association for the imprisonment, expulsion, execution, or other persecution of any persons on account of their loyalty to the United States, or did you ever assist in such acts?

28. Were you ever a paroled prisoner of the United States; if so, when and where, and by whom paroled?

29. Have you ever held any office in the Army or Navy of the United States? Were you educated by the United States at the Military Academy at West Point, or at the United States Naval Academy?

30. Did you ever receive any pass from any officer of the Confederate Government, or from any person having or assuming to have authority to issue the same; if so, who gave you the pass; for what purpose; for what period of time; did you sign or swear to any promise or obligation in order to get it, or swear or promise to "bear true faith and yield obedience to the Confederate States;" did you use the pass, and for what purpose?

31. Are you or were you under the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Article of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States? Have you held any office under the United States Government since the war; if so, what office; and did you take the (so-called) "iron-clad" oath?

32. At the beginning of the rebellion did you sympathize with the Union cause, or with the rebellion? What were your feelings and what [was] your language on the subject? On which side did you exert your influence

and cast your vote? What did you do, and how did you vote? How did you vote on ratifying the ordinance of secession? After the "ordinance" of secession was adopted in your State did you adhere to the Union cause, or did you " go with the State?"

33. In conclusion, do you solemnly declare that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, your sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that you never, of your own free will and accord, did anything, or offered, or sought, or attempted to do anything, by word or deed, to injure said cause or retard its success, and that you were at all times ready and willing, when called upon, or if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union, or its supporters, so far as your means and power, and the circumstances of the case permitted.

A.1.2 Questions as to the taking or furnishing of the property, to be answered by the claimant and his witnesses under oath.

1. Were you present when any of the articles of property specified in the claimant's petition were taken?
2. Did you see any of them taken? If so, specify the articles you saw taken.
3. Did you see any of the articles named in the petition taken, other than those you have specified?
4. When and where and by whom were the articles taken, which you say you saw taken?
5. Who were present when you saw them taken?
6. Was any United States officer, either commissioned or non-commissioned, present at the taking? If so, state his name, rank, regiment, and the command to which he belonged. Did he order the property to be taken? Did he say anything about the taking?
7. Describe how the property was taken, and give a full account of all you saw done, or heard said, upon the occasion of the taking.
8. How was the property removed, by soldiers, or in wagons, or in what manner? State fully as to each article taken and removed.
9. To what place was it removed? Did you follow it to such place, or see it, or any portion of it, at any such place, or on its way to such place? How do you know the place to which it was removed?
10. Do you know the use for which the property was taken? What was the use, and how do you know it? Did you see the property so taken used by the United States army? Did you see any part of the property so used?

State fully all you know as to the property or any of it having been used by the army; and distinguish between what you saw and know, and what you may have heard from others, or may think, or suppose, or infer to be true.

11. Was any complaint made to any officer on account of such taking? If so, state the name, rank, and regiment of the officer. What did he say about it? State fully all that he said.

12. Was any voucher or receipt for the property asked for; if so, of whom asked? State name, rank, and regiment. Was any receipt or paper given? If so, produce it, or state where it is and why it is not produced. If no voucher or receipt was given, state why none was given, and if refused, why it was refused; state all that was said about it. State fully all the conversation between any officer or other person taking the property, and the claimant or any one acting for him.

13. Was the property or any of it taken in the night-time? At what hour of the day, (as near as you can tell,) was it taken? Was any of the property taken secretly, or so that you did not know of it when taken?

14. When the property was taken was any part of the army encamped in that vicinity? If so, state how far from the place where the property was taken, and what was the company, regiment, or brigade there encamped. How long had it been encamped there? How long did it stay there, and when did it leave? Had there been any battle or skirmish near there, just before the property was taken? Did you know the quartermasters, or any of them, or any other officers of the army for whose use the property is supposed to have been taken?

15. Describe clearly the condition of the property when taken, and all that tends to show its value at the time and place of taking. Thus, if corn, was it green, or ripe? Had it been harvested? Was it in the shock or husked, or shelled? Where was it? If grain, was it standing; had it been cut; was it in shocks; or in the barn or in stacks; had it been threshed? If horses, mules, or cattle, state when they were taken, how taken, and fully their condition, age, and value. Have you talked with claimant about their value?

16. What means have you of knowing quantity taken? How much did you see taken and removed? What quantity was taken in your presence? As to quantity distinguish carefully as to what you saw and know, and what you may think or believe from what you have heard from others.

17. If you have testified as to the taking of wood; how do you know it was taken? How do you know the quantity? Was it measured? By whom? What was the kind, quality, and value of the wood? Was it taken in the tree, standing? Or had it been cut? Where was it taken?

18. If rails were taken; did you see them taken; how taken; in wagons, or by soldiers? To what place taken? How do you know, and what do you know as to the quantity taken? Were the rails new or old? Did officers try to prevent their being taken? Was any complaint made to officers on account of the taking?

19. Do you know, suppose, or believe that the property described in each item was taken for the actual use of the army, and not for the mere gratification of individual officers or soldiers already provided by the Government with such articles as were necessary or proper for them to have?

20. Do you know, suppose, or believe it was taken in consequence of the failure of the troops of the United States to receive from the Government in the customary manner, or to have in their possession at the time, the articles and supplies necessary for them, or which they were entitled to receive and have?

21. Do you know, suppose, or believe that it was taken in consequence of some necessity for the articles taken, or similar articles; which necessity justified the officers or soldiers taking them?

22. Do you know, suppose, or believe it was taken for some purpose so necessary, useful, beneficial, or justifiable as to warrant or require the Government to pay for it?

23. Do you know, suppose, or believe that it was taken by, or under the order or authority of some officer, or other person connected with the army, whose rank, situation, duties, or other circumstances at the time authorized, empowered, or justified him in taking it, or ordering it to be taken.

    (The witness must be caused, in answering the five preceding questions, to state fully, clearly, and carefully, his or her various reasons for the knowledge, supposition, or belief entertained with respect to each question.)

A.2 Question List 1872

A.2.1 Revised Questions to be Answered by Claimants

1. What is your name, age, residence, and occupation?

2. Where did you reside from the 1st of April, 1861, to the 1st of June, 1865? If on your own land, what is the size of your farm? How much of your farm was cultivated, and how much was woodland? Where is it situated? What was your occupation during that time? Did you change your residence or business during that time? if so, where was your new residence, and what [was] your new business?

3. Did you ever pass beyond the military or naval lines of the United States and enter the rebel lines? If so, how often, when, where, and for what purpose, and how long did you stay within the Confederate lines on each occasion?

4. Did you ever take any oath or affirmation to bear allegiance to the so-called Confederate States, or to aid or support them in any way, or to "bear true faith," or "yield obedience" to them? If so, when and where? State fully in regard to the same.

5. Have you ever taken any amnesty oath? If so, when, where, and under what condition? Have you been pardoned by the President? If so, when and where, and upon what conditions?

6. Were you ever directly or indirectly, or in any manner, connected with the civil service of the so-called Confederate States? If so, how, when, and where, in what capacity, and for what periods? Was any oath required of you for such service; and if so, what?

7. Did you ever hold any office or place of trust, honor, or profit under the Confederate Government, or under any of the States or Territories subordinate thereto? If so, state the nature and character of the office, the place at which, and the period for which you held it?

8. Did you hold any clerkship or have any agency or employment of any kind, for, or under, or for the benefit of the so-called Confederate States? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

9. Were you ever, in any capacity, in the military or naval service of the so-called Confederate States, or of any State or Territory subordinate thereto?

10. Were you ever an officer or soldier in the Confederate army? If yea, when, where, how long, and when did you leave such service? [Each one of these questions must be fully answered.]

11. Were you ever in the State militia of any State while subordinate to the Confederacy? If yea, state when, where, how long, and when you left the service?

12. Were you ever in the home guard, or upon any vigilance committee, or committee of safety, which subject to the Confederacy? If yea, state when, where, and how long?

13. If you claim that you were conscripted into the rebel service, state fully all the circumstances.

14. Did you ever furnish a substitute for the rebel army? If yea, state fully all the circumstances.

15. Were you directly or indirectly, or in any way, connected with or employed in the quartermaster's department of the Confederate service or the commissary's department, or the medical department, the engineers' department, the ordnance department, the impressment service, the provost-marshal's department, or any other branch of the Confederate service?

16. Were you employed on any railroad in the service of the Confederate government? Did you aid in the transportation of soldiers, munitions of war, or supplies for the Confederate government? If yea, state fully all the circumstances. If you claim that what you did was not "giving aid or comfort" to the rebel cause, state fully all the facts and reasons for such your claim.

17. Did you at any time have charge of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army, navy, or government, or the charge or care of trains, team or teams, wagon or wagons, vessels, boats, or other craft, or munitions of war, for the use of the Confederate army or navy? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

18. Were you ever in any service, employment, or business of any kind whatsoever for the Confederate government, or its army or navy? Did you ever furnish any aid, or any supplies or stores, or property of any kind, to or for the so-called Confederate States, or any State in rebellion, or to the army, navy, militia, home guards, armed forces, or military organizations thereof, or for any officer, soldier, or sailor thereof? If so, state fully in regard to the same. Did you ever give any information to any officer, soldier, or sailor of the Confederate army or navy, or to any person employed by or for the so-called Confederate States, or acting on their behalf, or for their benefit, which might aid in any way any military or naval operations carried on against the United States? State fully in regard to the same.

19. Were you in any manner employed in the manufacture of munitions of war, of clothing, of boots, shoes, saddles, harness, or leather; of equipment for soldiers, or of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army or navy; or were you in any way employed by, or did you aid or assist, others engaged in such manufacture? If so, state when and where, and by or for whom you were so employed, and for what period of time?

20. Were you ever, directly or indirectly, employed in the collection, impressment, or purchase, or the sale of stores, supplies or any property for the use or benefit of the Confederate government, or any State in rebellion, or the army, navy, or other forces thereof? Did you have any interest or share in contracts with, or purchases for, the Confederate government, or its army or navy, or any State in rebellion, or its forces? If so, state fully all particulars.

21. Were you ever engaged in blockade running, or illicit traffic or intercourse between the lines, or were you ever in any way interested therein? Did you

ever have any interest or share in any goods, wares, merchandise, stores, or supplies brought into or exported from the so-called Confederate States during the war? If so, state fully all particulars.

22. Did you leave the so-called Confederate States between the 19th of April, 1861, and 19th of April, 1865? If so, when and how did you leave; where did you go; for what purpose; how long were you absent; in what business were you engaged while absent, and when and to what place did you return in the so-called Confederate States?

23. Were you the owner, or part owner, or in any way interested in any vessel used in navigating the ocean to or from any port in the Confederacy, or upon any waters in the Confederacy? If so, what vessels, when and where employed, and in what business?

24. Were you ever arrested by the Confederate government, or by any officer, soldier, or other person professing to act therefor, or for any State in rebellion? If so, when, where, by whom, and how long were you kept under arrest? How did you get released? Did you, for the sake of being released, or upon release, take any oath of any kind to the Confederate government? If so, what? [Put the same questions as to arrest by the United States Government, etc.]

25. Was any of your property ever taken by the Confederate authorities, or by any officer, soldier, or other person acting or assuming to act on their behalf, or in behalf of any State in rebellion? If so, what property, when and for what use, and have you received pay therefor?

26. Were you ever threatened with damage or injury to your person, family, or property on account of your Union sentiments? If so, state when, by whom, and what the threats were?

27. Were you ever molested or in any way injured on account of your Union sentiments? If so, state fully all the particulars.

28. Did you ever contribute anything—any money or property—in aid of the United States Government, or in aid of the Union army or cause? If so, state fully as to the same.

29. Did you ever do anything for the United States Government or its army, or for the Union cause, during the war? If so, state fully what you did.

30. Had you any near relatives—any husband, son, brother, or nephew—in the Confederate army? If yea, state his name, whether he is now living, and where he resides. Did you furnish him with any military equipments, any clothing, or any money? Did you contribute in any way to aid or support him while in the rebel service? [Each of the questions under No. 30 must be fully answered.]

31. Have you owned any Confederate bonds or any interest or share therein; or had any share or interest in any loans to the Confederate government; or did you in any way contribute to support the credit of the so-called Confederate States during the late rebellion?

32. Have you ever given aid and comfort to the rebellion? If so, state fully all the circumstances.

33. Were you ever engaged in making raids into the United States from Canada, or engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States in the lakes and rivers adjoining Canada?

34. Were you ever engaged in holding in custody, directly or indirectly, any persons taken by the rebel government as prisoners of war, or any persons imprisoned or confined by the Confederate government, or the authorities of any State in rebellion, for political causes? If so, when, where, and under what circumstances? In what capacity were you engaged, and what was the name, rank, and command of your principal?

35. Were you ever a member of any society or association for the imprisonment, expulsion, execution, or other persecution of any persons on account of their loyalty to the United States, or did you ever assist in such acts?

36. Were you ever a paroled prisoner of the United States? Is so, when and where, and by whom paroled?

37. Have you ever held any office in the Army or Navy of the United States? Were you educated by the United States at the Military Academy at West Point, or at the United States Naval Academy?

38. Did you ever receive any pass from any officer of the Confederate government, or from any person having or assuming to have authority to issue the same? If so, who gave you the pass; for what purpose; for what period of time; did you sign or swear to any promise or obligation in order to get it; or swear or promise to bear "bear true faith and yield obedience to the Confederate States;" did you use the pass, and for what purpose?

39. Are you or were you under the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Article of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States? Have you held any office under the United States Government since the war? If so, what office; and did you take the (so-called) "iron-clad" oath?

40. At the beginning of the rebellion did you sympathize with the Union cause, or with the rebellion? What were your feelings and what your language on the subject? On which side did you exert your influence and cast your vote? What did you do, and how did you vote? How did you vote on ratifying the ordinance of secession? After the ordinance of secession was adopted in your State did you adhere to the Union cause, or did you "go with the State?"

Original Question 34. In conclusion, do you solemnly declare that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, your sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that you never, of your own free will and accord, did anything, or offered, or sought, or attempted to do anything, by word or deed, to injure said cause or retard its success, and that you were at all times ready and willing, when called upon, or if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union, or its supporters, so far as you means and power and the circumstances of the case permitted? If the claimant be a female, ask the following questions:

41. Are you single or married? If married, when were you married? Was your husband loyal to the cause and Government of the United States throughout the war? Where does he now reside, and why is he not joined with you in the petition? How many children have you? Given their names and ages. Were any of them in the Confederate service during the war? If you claim that the property named in your petition is your sole and separate property, state how you came to own it separately from your husband; how your title was derived; when your ownership of it began? Did it ever belong to your husband? If the property for which you ask pay is wood, timber, rails, or the products of a farm, how did you get title to the farm? If by deed, can you file copies of the deeds? If single, have you been married? If a widow, when did your husband die? Was he in the Confederate army? Was he in the civil service of the Confederacy? Was he loyal to the United States Government throughout the war? Did he leave any children? How many? Are any now living? Give their names and ages? Are they not interested in this claim? If they are not joined in this petition, why not? State fully how your title to the property specified in the petition was obtained? If the claimant be a colored person, ask the following questions:

42. Were you a slave or free at the beginning of the war? When did you become free? What was your business after you became free? How and when did you come to own the property named in your petition? How did you get the means to pay for it? Who was your former master? Are you now in his employment? Do you live on his land? Do you live on land purchased of him? Are you indebted to your former master for land or property, and how much? Has anybody any interest in this claim besides yourself? State fully all the facts in your answers to these questions.

A.2.2 Revised Questions as the Taking or Furnishing of Property, to be Answered by Claimants and Witnesses.

1. Were you present when any of the articles of property specified in the claimant's petition were taken?

2. Did you see any of them taken? If so, specify the articles you saw taken.

3. Begin with the first article (Item No. —) which you have specified that you saw taken, and give a full account of all you saw and heard in connection with the taking of that article? [The special commissioner should require the witness to state all the circumstances; for it is only by a knowledge of all of them that the commissioners of claims can judge whether the taking was such a one as the Government is bound to pay for. The common phrase, "I saw the property taken by United States soldiers," is not enough, for there was much lawless taking. The witness should be required to detail the facts as to each item, when the items were taken at different times; but if all, or more than one, were taken at the same time, that fact should appear, and then a repetition of the circumstances is needless. The special commissioner must be careful to elicit all the facts, as well those against as for the claim, especially as to those articles of property which were the special objects of pillage and theft, such as horses, mules, cattle, hogs, &c. Claimants must bear in mind that a neglect to observe these directions works to the prejudice of the claimant, and may defeat the claim.]

4. Where were the articles taken? When were they taken? Give the day, month and year, if you can? By whom were they taken? Did you see more than one soldier engaged in the taking? How many soldiers were present? State the number as near as you can? How many helped take the property? How long were they engaged in taking the property?

5. Who were present other than soldiers when you saw them taken? Give the names of all you know?

6. Was any United States officer, either commissioned or non-commissioned, present at the taking? If so, state his name, rank, regiment, and the command to which he belonged. Did he order the property to be taken? Did he say anything about the taking?

7. Describe how the property was taken, and give a full account of all you saw done, or heard said, upon the occasion of the taking.

8. How was the property removed—by soldiers or in wagons, or in what manner? State fully as to each article taken and removed.

9. To what place was it removed? Did you follow it to such place, or see it, or any portion of it, at any such place, or on its way to such place? How do you know the place to which it was removed?

10. Do you know the use for which the property was taken? What was the use, and how do you know it? Did you see the property so taken used by the United States army? Did you see any part of the property so used? State fully all you know as to the property or any of it having been used by the army; and distinguish between what you saw and know, and what you may have heard from others, or may think, or suppose, or infer to be true.

11. Was any complaint made to any officer on account of such taking? If so, state the name, rank, and regiment of the officer. What did he say about it? State fully all that he said.

12. Was any voucher or receipt for the property asked for? If so, of whom asked? State name, rank, and regiment. Was any receipt or paper given? If so, produce it, or state where it is, and why it is not produced. If no voucher or receipt was given, state why none was given, and if refused, why it was refused; state all that was said about it. State fully all the conversation between any officer or other person taking the property, and the claimant, or any one acting for him.

13. Was the property, or any of it, taken in the night-time? At what hour of the day (as near as you can tell) was it taken? Was any of the property taken secretly, or so that you did not know of it when taken?

14. When the property was taken, was any part of the army encamped in that vicinity? If so, state how far from the place where the property was taken, and what was the company, regiment, or brigade there encamped? How long had it been encamped there? How long did it stay there, and when did it leave? Had there been any battle or skirmish near there, just before the property was taken? Did you know the quartermasters, or any of them, or any other officers of the army for whose use the property is supposed to have been taken?

15. Describe clearly the condition of the property when taken, and all that tends to show its value at the time and place of taking? Thus, if corn, was it green or ripe? Had it been harvested? Was it in the shock, or husked, or shelled? Where was it? If grain, was it standing; had it been cut; was it in shocks, or in the barn or in stacks; had it been threshed? If horses, mules, or cattle, state when they were taken, how taken, and fully their condition, age, and value. Have you talked with claimant about their value?

16. What means have you of knowing the quantity taken? State particularly how you estimate the quantity? Did you count or weigh the articles? Give us all your data. How much did you see taken and removed? What quantity was taken in your presence? As to quantity, distinguish carefully as to what you saw and know, and what you may think or believe from what you have heard from others.

A.3 Question List 1874

A.3.1 Standing interrogatories

The following questions will be put to every person who gives testimony:

1. What is your name, your age, your residence, and how long has it been such, and your occupation?

2. If you are not the claimant, in what manner, if any, are you related to the claimant or interested in the success of the claim? The following questions will be put to every claimant, except claimants who were slaves at the beginning of the war: [Note—If the original claimant be dead, these questions are to be answered by each of the heirs or legatees who was not less that sixteen years of age when the war closed.]

3. Where were you born? If not born in the United States, when and where were you naturalized? Produce your naturalization papers if you can.

4. Where were you residing and what was your business for six months before the outbreak of the rebellion, and where did you reside and what was your business from the beginning to the end of the war? And if you changed your residence or business, state how many times, and why such changes were made.

5. On which side were your sympathies during the war, and were they on the same side from beginning to end?

6. Did you ever do anything or say anything against the Union cause; and if so, what did you do or say, and why?

7. Were you at all times during the war willing and ready to do whatever you could in aid of the Union cause?

8. Did you ever do anything for the Union cause, or its advocates or defenders? If so, state what you did, giving times, places, names of persons aided, and particulars. Were the persons aided your relations?

9. Had you any near relatives in the Union army or navy? If so, in what company and regiment, or on what vessel, when and where did each one enter service, and when and how did he leave service? If he was a son, produce his discharge paper, in order that its contents may be noted in this deposition, or state why it cannot be produced.

10. Were you in the service or employment of the United States Government at any time during the war? If so, in what service, when, where, for how long, under what officers, and when and how did you leave such service or employment?

11. Did you ever voluntarily contribute money, property, or services to the Union cause; and if so, when, where, to whom, and what did you contribute?

12. Which side did you take while the insurgent States were seceding from the Union in 1860 and 1861, and what did you do to show on which side you stood?

13. Did you adhere to the Union cause after the States had passed into rebellion, or did you go with your State?

14. What were your feelings concerning the battle of Bull Run or Manassas, the capture of New Orleans, the fall of Vicksburg, and the final surrender of the Confederate forces?

15. What favors, privileges, or protections were ever granted you in recognition of your loyalty during the war, and when and by whom granted?

16. Have you ever taken the so-called —iron-clad oath‖ since the war, and when and on what occasions?

17. Who were the leading and best known Unionists of your vicinity during the war? Are any of them called to testify to your loyalty; and if not, why not?

18. Were you ever threatened with damage or injury to your person, family, or property on account of your Union sentiments, or were you actually molested or injured on account of your Union sentiments? If so, when, where, by whom, and in what particular way were you injured or threatened with injury?

19. Were you ever arrested by any Confederate officer, soldier, sailor, or other person professing to act for the Confederate government, or for any State in rebellion? If so, when, where, by whom, for what cause; how long were you kept under arrest; how did you obtain your release; did you take any oath or give any bond to effect your release; and if so, what was the nature of the oath or the bond?

20. Was any of your property taken by Confederate officers or soldiers, or any rebel authority? If so, what property, when, where, by whom, were you ever paid saltpeter; and did you ever present an account saltpeter to the Confederate government or any rebel officer?

21. Was any of your property ever confiscated by rebel authority, on the ground that you were an enemy to the rebel cause? If so, give all the particulars, and state if the property was subsequently released or compensation made saltpeter.

22. Did you ever do anything for the Confederate cause, or render any aid or comfort to the rebellion? If so, give the times, places, persons, and other particulars connected with each transaction.

23. What force, compulsion, or influence, was used to make you do anything against the Union cause? If any, give all the particulars demanded in the last question.

24. Were you in any service, business, or employment, for the Confederacy, or for any rebel authority? If so, give the same particulars as before required.

25. Were you in the civil, military, or naval service of the Confederacy, or any rebel State, in any capacity whatsoever? If so, state fully in respect to each occasion and service.

26. Did you ever take any oath to the so-called Confederate States while in any rebel service or employment?

27. Did you ever have charge of any stores, or other property, for the Confederacy; or did you ever sell or furnish any supplies to the so-called Confederate States, or any State in rebellion; or did you have any share or interest in contracts or manufactures in aid of the rebellion?

28. Were you engaged in blockade running, or running through the lines, or interested in the risks or profits of such ventures?

29. Were you in any way interested in any vessel navigating the waters of the Confederacy, or entering or leaving any Confederate port? If so, what vessel, when and where employed, in what business, and had any rebel authority any direct or indirect interest in vessel or cargo?

30. Did you ever subscribe to any loan of the so-called Confederate States, or of any rebel State; or own Confederate bonds or securities, or the bonds or securities of any rebel State issued between 1861 and 1865? Did you sell, or agree to sell, cotton or produce to the Confederate Government, or to any rebel State, or to any rebel officer or agent, and if so, did you receive or agree to receive Confederate or State bonds or securities in payment; and if so, to what amount, and for what kind and amount of property?

31. Did you contribute to the raising, equipment or support of troops, or the building of gunboats in aid of the rebellion; or to military hospitals or invalids, or to relief funds or subscriptions for the families of persons serving against the United States?

32. Did you ever give information to any person in aid of military or naval operations against the United States?

33. Were you at any time a member of any society or organization for equipping volunteers or conscripts, or for aiding the rebellion in any other manner?

34. Did you ever take an oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate States? If so, state how often, when, where, for what purpose, and the nature of the oath or affirmation.

35. Did you ever receive a pass from rebel authority? If so, state when, where, for what purpose, on what conditions, and how the pass was used.

36. Had you any near relatives in the Confederate army, or in any military or naval service hostile to the United States? If so, give names, ages on entering service, present residence, if living, what influence you exerted, if

any, against their entering the service, and in what way you contributed to their outfit and support.

37. Have you been under the disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution? Have your disabilities been removed by Congress?

38. Have you been specially pardoned by the President for participation in the rebellion?

39. Did you take any amnesty oath during the war, or after its close? If so, when, where, and why did you take it?

40. Were you ever a prisoner to the United States authorities, or on parole, or under bonds to do nothing against the Union cause? If so, state all the particulars.

41. Were you ever arrested by the authorities of the United States during the war? If so, when, where, by whom, on what grounds, and when and how did you obtain your release?

42. Were any fines or assessments levied upon you by the authorities of the United States because of your supposed sympathy for the rebellion? If so, state all the facts.

43. Was any of your property taken into possession or sold by the United States under the laws relating to confiscation, or to captured and abandoned property? The following questions will be put to all male claimants or beneficiaries who were not less than sixteen years of age when the war closed:

44. After the Presidential election of 1860, if of age, did you vote for any candidates, or on any questions, during the war, and how did you vote? Did you vote for or against candidates favoring secession? Did you vote for or against the ratification of the ordinance of secession, or for or against separation in your State?

45. Did you belong to any vigilance committee, or committee of safety, home-guard, or any other form of organization or combination designed to suppress Union sentiment in your vicinity?

46. Were you in the Confederate army, State militia, or any military or naval organization hostile to the United States? If so, state when, where, in what organizations, how and why you entered, how long you remained each time, and when and how you left. If you claim that you were conscripted, when and where was it, how did you receive notice, and from whom, and what was the precise manner in which the conscription was enforced against you? If you were never in the rebel army or other hostile organization, explain how you escaped service. If you furnished a substitute, when and why did you furnish one, and what is his name, and his present address, if living?

47. Were you in any way connected with or employed in the Confederate quartermaster, commissary, ordnance, engineer, or medical department, or any other department, or employed on any railroad transporting troops or supplies for the Confederacy, or otherwise engaged in transportation of men and supplies for the Confederacy? If so, state how employed, when, where , or for how long, under whose direction, and why such employment was not given —aid and comfort‖ to the rebellion?

48. Did you at any time have charge of trains, teams, wagons, vessels, boats, or military supplies or property of any kind for the Confederate government? If so, give all the facts as in previous questions.

49. Were you employed in saltpeter works, in tanning or milling for the Confederate government, or making clothing, boots, shoes, saddles, harness, arms, ammunition, accoutrements, or any other kind of munitions of war for the Confederacy? If so, give all the particulars of time, place and nature of service or supplies.

50. Were you ever engaged in holding in custody, directly or indirectly, any persons taken by the rebel government as prisoners of war, or any persons imprisoned or confined by the Confederate government, or the authorities of any rebel State, for political causes? If so, when, where, under what circumstances, in what capacity were you engaged, and what was the name and rank of your principal?

51. Were you ever in the Union army or navy, or in any service connected therewith? If so, when, where, in what capacity, under whose command or authority, for what period of time, and when and how did you leave service? Produce your discharge papers, so that their contents may be noted herein. The following questions will be put to every person testifying to the loyalty of claimants or beneficiaries:

52. In whose favor are you here to testify?

53. How long have you known that person altogether, and what part of that time have you intimately known him?

54. Did you live near him during the war, and how far away?

55. Did you meet him often, and about how often, during the war?

56. Did you converse with the claimant about the war, its causes, its progress, and its results? If so, try to remember the more important occasions on which you so conversed, beginning with the first occasion, and state, with respect to each, when it was, where it was, who were present, what caused the conversation, and what the claimant said in substance, if you cannot remember his words.

57. Do you know of anything done by the claimant that showed him to be loyal to the Union cause during the war? If you do, state what he did, when, where, and what was the particular cause or occasion of his doing it? Give the same information about each thing he did that showed him to be loyal.

58. Do you know of anything said or done by the claimant that was against the Union cause? If so, please state with respect to each thing said or done, what it was, when it was, where it was, and what particular compulsion or influence caused him to say or do it.

59. If you have heard of anything said or done by the claimant, either for the Union cause or against it, state from whom you heard it, when you heard it and what you heard.

60. What was the public reputation of the claimant for loyalty or disloyalty to the United States during the war? If you profess to know his public reputation, explain fully how you know it, whom you heard speak of it, and give the names of other persons who were neighbors during the war that could testify to this public reputation.

61. Who were the known and prominent Union people of the neighborhood during the war, and do you know that such persons could testify to the claimant's loyalty?

62. Were you, yourself, an adherent of the Union cause during the war? If so, did the claimant know you to be such, and how did he know it?

63. Do you know of any threats, molestations, or injury inflicted upon the claimant, or his family, or his property, on account of his adherence to the Union cause? If so, give all the particulars.

64. Do you know of any act done or language used by the claimant that would have prevented him from establishing his loyalty to the Confederacy? If so, what act or what language?

65. Can you state any other facts within your own knowledge in proof of the claimant's loyalty during the war? If so, state all the facts and give all the particulars. The following questions concerning the ownership of property charged in claims will be put to all claimants, or the representatives of deceased claimants:

66. Who was the owner of the property charged in this claim when it was taken, and how did such person become owner?

67. If any of the property was taken from a farm or plantation, where was such farm or plantation situated, what was its size, how much was cultivated, how much was woodland, and how much was waste land?

68. Has the person who owned the property when taken since filed a petition in bankruptcy, or been declared a bankrupt?

The following questions will be put to female claimants:

69. Are you married or single? If married, when were you married? Was your husband loyal to the cause and Government of the United States throughout the war? Where does he now reside, and why is he not joined with you in the petition? How many children have you? Give their names and ages. Were any of them in the Confederate service during the war? If you claim that the property named in your petition is your sole and separate property, state how you came to own it separately from your husband; how your title was derived; when your ownership of it began. Did it ever belong to your husband? If the property for which you ask pay is wood, timber, rails, or the products of a farm, how did you get title to the farm? If by deed, can you file copies of the deeds? If single, have you been married? If a widow, when did your husband die? Was he in the Confederate army? Was he in the civil service of the Confederacy? Was he loyal to the United States Government throughout the war? Did he leave any children? How many? Are any now living? Give their names and ages. Are they not interested in this claim? If they are not joined in this petition, why not? State fully how your title to the property specified in the petition was obtained. Did you ever belong to any sewing society organized to make clothing for Confederate soldiers or their families, or did you assist in making any such clothing, or making flags, or other military equipments, or preparing or furnishing delicacies or supplies for Confederate hospitals or soldiers?

The following questions will be put to colored claimants:

70. Were you a slave or free at the beginning of the war? If ever a slave, when did you become free? What business did you follow after obtaining your freedom? Did you own this property before or after you became free? When did you get it? How did you become owner, and from whom did you obtain it? Where did you get the means to pay for it? What was the name and residence of your master, and is he still living? Is he a witness for you, and if not, why not? Are you in his employ now, or do you live on his land or on land bought from him? Are you in his debt? What other person besides yourself has any interest in this claim?

The following questions will be put to all colored witnesses in behalf of white claimants:

71. Were you formerly the slave of the claimant? Are you now in his service or employment? Do you live on his land? Are you in his debt? Are you in any way to share in this claim if allowed? The following questions will be put to claimants and witnesses who testify to the taking of property, omitting in the case of each claimant or witness any questions that are clearly unnecessary:

72. Were you present when any of the property charged in this claim was taken? Did you actually see any taken? If so, specify what you saw taken.

73. Was any of the property taken in the night time, or was any taken secretly, so that you did not know of it at the time?

74. Was any complaint made to any officer of the taking of any of the property? If so, give the name, rank and regiment of the officer, and state who made the complaint to him, what he said and did in consequence, and what was the result of the complaint.

75. Were any vouchers or receipts asked for or given? If given, where are the vouchers or receipts? If lost, state fully how lost. If asked and not given, by whom were they asked, who was asked to give them, and why were they refused or not given? State very fully in regard to the failure to ask or obtain receipts.

76. Has any payment ever been made for any property charged in this claim? Has any payment been made for any property taken at the same times as the property charged in this claim? Has any payment been made for any property taken from the same claimant during the war, and if so, when, by whom, for what property and to what amount? Has this property, or any part of it, been included in any claim heretofore presented to Congress, or any court, department or officer of the United States, or to any board of survey, military commission, State commission or officer, or any other authority? If so, when and to what tribunal or officers was the claim presented; was it larger or smaller in amount than this claim, and how is the difference explained, and what was the decision, if any, of the tribunal to which it was presented?

77. Was the property charged in this claim taken by troops encamped in the vicinity, or were they on the march, or were they on a raid or expedition, or had there been any recent battle or skirmish?

78. You will please listen attentively while the list of items, but not the quantities, is read to you, and as each kind of property is called off, say whether you saw any such property taken.

79. Begin now with the first item of property you have just said you saw taken, and give the following information about it. 1st.. Describe its exact condition, as for instance, if corn, whether green or ripe, standing or harvested, in shuck, or husked, or shelled; if lumber, whether new or old, in buildings or piled; if grain, whether growing or cut. 2d. State where it was. 3d. What was the quantity; explain fully how you know the quantity, and if estimated, describe your method of making the estimate.4th. Describe the quality to your best judgment. 5th. State as nearly as you can the market value of such property at the time in United States money. 6th. Say when the property was taken. 7th. Give the name of the detachment,

regiment, brigade, division, corps, or army, taking the property, and the names of any officers belonging to the command. 8th. Describe the precise manner in which the property was taken into possession by the troops, and the manner in which it was removed. 9th. State as closely as you can how many men, animals, wagons, or other means of transport, were engaged in the removal, how long they were occupied, and to what place they removed the property. 10th. State if any officers were present; how you knew them to be officers; what they said or did in relation to the property, and give the names of any, if you can. 11th. Give any reasons that you may have for believing that the taking of the property was authorized by the proper officers or that it was for the necessary use of the army.

80. Now take the next item of property you saw taken and give the same information, and so proceed to the end of the list of items.

Appendix B

Image files

B.1 Description of image files

The following descriptions apply to each image or range of images in the collection constituting the Case No. 20459 before the Southern Commissioners of Claims.

1. Cover of first file folder
2. Cover of Claim Submitted to Congress December 4, 1876
3-13. Summary Report of Commission to Congress
14. Petition Cover
15-23. Petition to the Commission of Claims February 21, 1876
24-81. Testimony of Franklin D. Cossitt June 28, 1876
82. Cover of Franklin D. Cossitt & General S. A. Hurlbut Testimony June 28, 1876
83. Cover of second file folder
84. Cover sheet for Franklin D. Cossitt, Oct. 17 1876 with wrong case no. 20450
85-86. Testimony of Richard McAllister October 17, 1876
86-126. Testimony of Edward M. Myrick October 17, 1876
126-152. Testimony of William Cossitt October 17, 1876
153. Cover for above 3 testimonies
154. Cover of third file folder
155. Oath of Allegiance, appointment of counsel, and Early Claim January 1876
156-157. Early Claim January 1876 for $10,082.00
158. Cover of Early Claim
159-164. Affidavit of Franklin D. Cossitt (response to Quartermaster of Army) April 27, 1876
165. Cover of affidavit above.
166-168. Letter of Claim to Quartermaster General U. S. A. on April 4, 1876 for $23,833.00

169. Cover of above submittal
170-173. Deposition of Charles S. Hamilton October 15, 1876
174-175. Deposition of Newitt Harris January 20 1876
176-177. Deposition of henry W. Rossiene January 21, 1876
178-179. Deposition of M. P. Pulliam January 21, 1876
180-181. Deposition of Richard H. Parham January 21, 1876
182. Cover for sworn copies of evidence of loyalty
183. Deposition of Luke J. Whitfield March 15, 1876
184-188. Deposition of Edward M. Myrick January 21, 1876
189-190. Deposition of Harrison Cossitt January 21, 1876
191-194. Desposition of William Cossitt Januray 21, 1876
195. Cover for evidence of Claim
196-202. Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt April 27, 1876 (True copy)
203. Cover for above certified copy of Franklin D. Cossitt affidavit
204. Letter from J. H. Hammond to F. D. Cossitt June 15th 1862 (Copy)
205. Letter from W. T. Sherman to Col. McDowell June 16 1862 (Copy)
206. Pass for Franklin D. Cossitt November 14 1862 (Copy)
207. Loyalty Certification by C. S. Hamilton April 1 1864 (Copy)
208. Permission to sell property April 8 1863 (Copy)
209. Oath of Allegiance June 7 1863 (Copy)
210. Certification of above (204-209) being true copies
211. Cover for sworn copies of evidence
212-214. Deposition of Newitt Harris January 20, 1876
215-218. Deposition of Henry W. Rossiene January 21, 1876
219-222. Deposition of M. P. Pulliam January 21, 1876
223-225. Deposition of Richard H. Parham January 28, 1876
226. Cover for Richard H. Parham deposition
227-228. Deposition of Alexander P. Rose January 20, 1876
229-241. Deposition of Edward M. Myrick January 21, 1876
242-245. Deposition of Susan E. Myrick January 21, 1876
246-249. Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt January 22, 1876
250-256. Deposition of William Cossitt January 21, 1876
257-260. Deposition of Harrison Cossitt January 21, 1876
261-264. Deposition of Adam Morton January 22, 1876
265-270. Claim for Quartermaster Supplies April 1, 1876 for $23,833.00
271. Cover of fourth file folder
272-273. Letter from Quartermaster general to Auditor of Treasury June 3, 1876
274. Stamped back side of letter above
275. Response from Auditor to Quartermaster General July 27, 1876
276. War Department forwarding papers to Southern Claims Commission June 28 1876
277. Label on back of Exhibit No. 13 June 28 1876
278. Exhibit No. 13 Letter of loyalty from S. A. Hurlbut Nov 22
279. Label on back of Exhibit No. 12 June 28 1876

280. Exhibit No. 12 Letter from S. A. Hurlbut to William Brooks, Editor of Chicago Tribune
281. Label on back of Exhibit No. 14 June 28 1876
282. Exhibit No. 14 Letter from C. S. Hamilton dated April 1st 1864.
283. Label on back of Exhibit No. 2 June 28 1876
284. Exhibit No. 2 Claim from C. S. Hamilton to Franklin D. Cossitt (list)
285. Receipt December 30 1862 for four small mules
286. Back side of receipt (Image 285)
287-288. Letter Quartermaster General to Adjutant General for signature verificiation June 3, 1876
289. Label on back of Exhibit No. 1 June 28 1876
290. Exhibit No. 1 Directive from James B. McPherson November 5, 1862
291. Label on back of Letter of Jurisdiction from Quartermaster General
292-293. Letter of Jurisdiction from Quartermaster General dated June 28 1876
294. Back of letter (Image 295)labelled Gen. W. Smith
295. Letter of permission for Franklin Cossitt to ship furniture and move family to Chicago April 8, 1863
296. Label on back of Exhibit No.19 June 28 1876
297. Exhibit No. 19 Permission to sell Real Estate and Personal Property April 8, 1863
298. Label on back of Exhibit No. 16 June 28 1876
299. Exhibit No. 16 Letter entitling Cossitt to valid receipts dated Nov. 22 1862
300. Label on back of Exhibit No. 18 June 28 1876
301. Exhibit No. 18 Letter from M. W. Cushman vouching for Cossitt's right to claim dated April 9 1864
302. Label on back of Exhibit No. 17 June 28 1876
303. Letter of introduction for F. D. Cossitt November 25, 1863
304. Exhibit No. 35 Receipt for one steer November 14, 1862
305. Label on back of Exhibit No. 35 June 28 1876
306. Label on back of Exhibit No. 15 June 28 1876
307. Exhibit No. 15 License to pruchase cotton November 22, 1862
308. Letter from Commissary General cover
309. Letter from Commissary General transferring claim June 3, 1876
310. Cover of affidavit of claimant on delay in filing
311. Letter regarding delay in filing case May 2, 1876
312. Cover of letter asking case to transfer to Quartermaster General May 3, 1876
313. Letter asking case to transfer to Quartermaster General dated March 10 1876
314. Label on back of Exhibit No. 11 June 28 1876
315. Exhibit No. 11 Release to sell or lease property by S. A. Hurlbut dated April 14, 1863
316. Cover Exhibits 1 to 19 inclusive
317. Blank letterhead Office of Commissioners of Claims

318. Cover for Exhibits No. 20 to 34 inclusive
319-320. Letter requesting signature verification from Quartermaster General dated June 3, 1876
321. Cover of copy of letter of C. S. Hamilton
322. Letter from C. S. Hamilton Dec 26 1867 (Copy)
323-324. Provost Marshalls Office Oath of Allegiance November 19, 1862 (Copy)
325. List of provisions covered in Exhibits 20 through 34
326. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 7, 1862
327. Label on back of Exhibit No. 33 (was Exhibit 5)
328. Label on back of Exhibit No. 33 (was Exhibit 6)
329. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 11, 1862
330. Label on back of Exhibit No. 23
331. Exhibit No. 23 Receipt November 9, 1862
332. Label on back of Exhibit No. 26 (was Exhibit 4)
333. Exhibit No. 26 Receipt November 7, 1862
334. Label on back of Exhibit No. 28 (was Exhibit 18)
335. Exhibit No. 28 Receipt November 6, 1862
336. Label on back of Exhibit No. 29 (was Exhibit 8)
337. Exhibit No. 29 Receipt November 17, 1862
338. Label on back of Exhibit No. 30 (was Exhibit 17)
339. Exhibit No. 30 Receipt November 7, 1862
340. Label on back of Exhibit No. 34 (was Exhibit 7)
341. Exhibit No. 34 Receipt November 6, 1862
342. Letter from W. T. Sherman about trestle work June 16, 1862 (Copy)
343. Blank
344. Order for receipts from Jams B. McPherson November 5, 1862 (Copy)
345. Blank
346. Letter of introduction for F. D. Cossitt Nov. 25 1863 (Copy)
347. Blank
348. Letter from J. H. Hammond about track repairs dated June 15 1862 (Copy)
349. Pass cover from J. H. Hammond (back of Image 348)
350. Label on back of Exhibit No. 29 only marked Exhibit No. 8 (Not marked 1876)
351. Exhibit No. 29 receipt November 17, 1862 (copy)
352. Label on back of Exhibit No. 22 only marked Exhibit No. 11
353. Exhibit No. 22 receipt November 7, 1862 (Copy)
354. Exhibit No. 24 receipt November 12, 1862 (Copy)
355. Label on back of Exhibit No. 24 only marked Exhibit 13
356. Label on back of Exhibit No. 25 only marked Exhibit No. 14
357. Exhibit No. 25 Receipt November 10, 1862 (Copy)
358. Label on back of Exhibit No. 30 only marked Exhibit No. 17
359. Exhibit No. 30 Receipt November 7 1862 (Copy)
360. Label on back of Exhibit No. 28 only marked Exhibit No. 18
361. Exhibit No. 28 Receipt November 6, 1862 (Copy)

362. Label on back of Exhibit No. 27 (was Exhibit No. 19)
363. Exhibit No. 27 Receipt December 14, 1862
364. Label on back of Exhibit No. 2 only marked Exhibit No. 1
365. Exhibit No. 2 List of items for Genl Hamilton from F. D. Cossitt (copy)
366. Label on back of Exhibit No. 5 only marked Exhibit No. 3
367. Exhibit No. 5 Authorization to keep 3 mules by J. B. McPherson November 20, 1862 (Copy)
368. Label on back of Exhibit No. 26 only marked Exhibit No. 4
369. Exhibit No. 26 Receipt November 7, 1862 (Copy)
370. Receipt from N. B. Stage December 30, 1862 (Copy)
371. Pass by J. B. McPherson November 14, 1862 (Copy)
372. Blank
373. Exhibit No. 14 Letter from C. S. Hamilton dated Apr 1st 1864 (Copy)
374. Exhibit No. 15 License to purchase cotton Nov. 22, 1862 (Copy)
375. Blank
376. Exhibit No. 19 Permission to ship furniture to Chicago and to move family April 8, 1863 (Copy)
377. Blank
378. Exhibit No. 19 Permission to sell Real Estate and personal property April 8, 1863 (Copy)
379. Blank
380. Exhibit No. 8 Provost Marshalls Office Oath of Allegiance June 9, 1863 (Copy)
381. Blank
382. Cover for copies of Exhibits 1 through 19 Aril 4, 1876
383. Letter from Quartermaster general returning papers to SCC June 28, 1876
384. Cover for original certificates of loyalty filed in Feb. 27 1873
385. Blank
386. Loyalty claim from S. A. Hurlbut November 18, 1862 (Copy)
387. Blank
388. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 11, 1862 (Copy)
389. Label on back of Exhibit No. 33 only marked Exhibit 6
390. Cover for copies of letters and orders April 4, 1876
391. Letter S. A. Hurlbut release to sell property April 14 1863 (Copy)
392. Blank
393. Letter F. D. Cossitt saying he applied to QM General instead March 10 1876 (Copy)
394. Blank
395. Exhibit No. 25 Receipt November 10, 1862
396. Label on back of Exhibit No. 25 June 28 1876 (was Exhibit 14)
397. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 7, 1862
398. Label on back of Exhibit No. 33 only marked Exhibit 5
399. Exhibit No. 18 Loyalty letter from M. M. Cushman April 9, 1864 (Copy)
400. Blank
401. Exhibit No. 27 Receipt December 14, 1862 (Copy)

402. Label on back of Exhibit No. 27 only marked Exhibit 19
403. Exhibit No. 32 Receipt November 6, 1862 (Copy)
404. Label on back of Exhibit No. 32 only marked Exhibit 15
405. Exhibit No. 31 Receipt November 10, 1862 (Copy)
406. Label on back of Exhibit No. 31 only marked Exhibit 16
407. Note Franklin D. Cossitt, Fayette Cty. Tennesse No 20459 allowed for $14,102.17
408. Exhibit No. 34 Receipt November 6, 1862
409. Label on back of Exhibit No. 34 only marked Exhibit 7
410. Exhibit No. 31 Receipt November 10, 1862
411. Label on back of Exhibit No. 31 (was Exhibit 16)
412. Exhibit No. 32 Receipt November 6, 1862
413. Label on back of Exhibit No. 32 (was Exhibit 15)
414. Exhibit No. 20 Receipt November 6, 1862
415. Label on back of Exhibit No. 20 (was Exhibit 9)
416. Exhibit No. 22 Receipt November 7, 1862
417. Label on back of Exhibit No. 22 (was Exhibit 11)
418. Exhibit No. 21 Receipt November 10, 1862
419. Label on back of Exhibit No. 21 (was Exhibit 10)
420. Exhibit No. 24 Receipt November 12, 1862
421. Label on back of Exhibit No. 24 (was Exhibit 13)
422. Exhibit No. 20 Receipt November 6, 1862 (Copy)
423. Label on back of Exhibit No. 21 marked only Exhibit 9
424. Exhibit No. 23 Receipt November 9, 1862 (Copy)
425. Label on back of Exhibit No. 23 marked only Exhibit 12
426. Exhibit No. 21 Receipt November 10, 1862 (Copy)
427. Label on back of Exhibit No. 21 only marked Exhibit No. 10
428. Exhibit No. 2 List of items provided to J. B. McPherson from F.D. Cossitt (Copy)
429. Label on back of Exhibit No. 2 only marked Exhibit No. 1
430. Exhibit No. 7 Provost Marshalls Office Oath of Allegiance to the U. S. Nov. 19 1862
431. Label on back of Exhibit No. 7 June 28 1876
432. Exhibit No. 8 Provost Marshalls Office Oath of Allegiance June 7 1863
433. Label on back of Exhibit No. 8 June 28 1876
434. Exhibit No. 5 J. B. McPherson permission to retain 3 mules November 20, 1862
435. Exhibit A Oct. 17 1876 request for original about 3 mules
436. Exhibit B Letter about 3 mules letter July 6, 1876
437. Exhibit B Orders from Col. Reynolds November 22, 1862 (Copy)
438. Label on back of Exhibit B, Oct. 17 1876
439. Exhibit No. 6 W. T. Sherman letter about trestle work June 16 1862
440. Label on back of Exhibit No. 6 June 28 1876
441. Exhibit No. 10 Loyalty Letter from S. A. Hurlbut November 18, 1862
442. Label on back of Exhibit No. 10 June 28 1876
443. Exhibit No. 9 J. H. Hammond letter about road repair June 15, 1862

444. Labe on back of Exhibit No. 9 June 28 1876 & Pass for F.D. Cossitt
445. Exhibit No. 3 Pass for F. D. Cossitt through lines
446. Label on back of Exhibit No. 3 June 28 1876
447. Exhibit No. 4 Pass for F. D. Cossitt November 20, 1862
448. Label on back of Exhibit No. 4 June 28 1876
449. Exhibit No. 5 Letter from J. B. McPherson about 3 mules November 20, 1862
450. Label on back of Exhibit No. 5 June 28 1876 [Pass to keep 3 mules] (was Exhibit 3)
451. Exhibit No. 2 List of items taken from F. D. Cossitt for Joseph B. McPherson November 13, 1862
452. Label on back of Exhibit No. 2A (was Exhibit No. 2)
453. Treasury department verifying officers' signatures June 14, 1876
454. Cover of signature verification
455. Request from lawyer to Treasury to pay Cossitt his awarded sum. March 11 1877
456. Back of Treasury letter
457-458. Attorney letter to Third Auditor of Treasury about payment March 12 1877
459. Claim against Treasury for $14,102.17 dated March 13 1877
460. Payment voucher from United States Treasury for $14102.17 March 13, 1877
461. Cover of Summary Report submitted to Congress December 4, 1876
462-464. List of items claimed $31620.00
465-466. List of items approved $14102.17
467-470. Notes of Commissioners
471. Blank Claim Cover
472-473. Report of Claim Resolution
474. Cover of Petition
475. First Page of Claim February 21 1873
476-521. Testimony of Franklin D. Cossitt June 28 1876
521-532. Testimony of Stephen A. Hurlbut June 29 1876
533. Cover for Testimony of F. D. Cossitt & S. A. Hurlbut Hune 28, 1876
534. Cover with No. 20450 Franklin D. Cossitt Oct 17 1876
535-536. Richard McAllister Testimony
536-576. Testimony of Edward M Myrick
576-600.Testimony of William Cossitt
601. Cover for above three testimonies
602. Mostly empty cover of claim for $10,082.00
603-605. Claim of June 1876 for $10082.00
606-611. Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt April 27, 1876
612. Cover for deposition in response to request of Quartermaster General in regard to delay
613-615. Submission of claim to Quartermaster General in April 1876 for $23,833.00
616. Cover of letter from attorney transferring claim to QM Genl.

617-620. Deposition of Charles S. Hamilton October 15, 1876
621-622. Deposition of Newitt Harris January 21, 1876
623-624. Deposition of Henry W. Rossiene January 21, 1876
625-626. Deposition of M. P. Pulliam January 21, 1876
626-628. Deposition of Richard H. Parham January 28, 1876
629. Deposition of Luke J. Whitfield March 15, 1876
630. Cover for submission of evidence
631-635. Deposition of Edward M. Myrick January 21, 1876
636-637. Deposition of Harrison Cossitt January 21, 1876
638-641. Deposition of William Cossitt January 21, 1876
642. Cover of submittal of evidence
643-649. Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt April 27, 1876
650. Certified copy of F. D. Cossitt Affidavit Cover
651. Exhibit No. 9 J. H. Hammond letter about road repair June 15, 1862 (Copy)
652. Exhibit No. 6 W. T. Sherman letter about trestle work / Exhibit No. 1 J. B. McPherson letter of loyalty (Copy)
653. Exhibit No. 3, Exhibit No. 10, and Exhibit No. 15 passes and right to purchase cotton (Copy)
654. Exhibit No. 14 and Exhibit No. 19 Loyalty letter and permission to ship to Chicago (Copy)
655. Exhibit No. 18 and Exhibit No. 11 Permission to sell real estate and two loyalty letters (Copy)
656. Exhibit No. 8 Oath of Allegiance (Copy)
657. Deposition of Luke J. Whitfield (Copy)
658. Cover for sworn copies of evidence
659-661. Deposition of Newitt Harris January 20, 1876
662-665 Deposition of Henry W. Rosseine January 21, 1876
666-669 Deposition of M. P. Pulliam January 21, 1876
670-672 Deposition of Richard H. Parham January 28, 1876
673. Cover for affidavit of R. H. Parham
674-675. Deposition of Alexander P.Rose January 20, 1876
676-688. Deposition of Edward M. Myrick January 21, 1876
689-692. Deposition of Susan E. Myrick January 21, 1876
693-696. Deposition of Franklin D. Cossitt January 22, 1876
697-703. Deposition of William Cossitt January 21, 1876
704-707. Deposition of Harrison Cossitt January 21, 1876
708. Cover for additional evidence
709-711. Deposition of Adam Morton
712. Cover of claim April 14 1876 for $23833.00
713-717. Claim body
718-719. Letter requesting official records of purchases from Army June 3, 1876
720. Cover of statements from Officers' Accounts
721. Letter about purchases and payments July 27, 1876
722. Exhibit No. 13 Loyalty statement from S. A. Hurlbut November 22, 1862

723. Label on back of Exhibit No. 13 June 28 1876
724. Duplicate of Image 723
725. Label on back of Exhibit No. 12 June 28 1876
726. Exhibit No. 12 Loyalty letter C. S. Hamilton April 1st 1864
727. Label on back of Exhibit No. 14 June 28 1876
728. Exhibit No. 2 List of items taken from F. D. Cossitt to C. S. Hamilton
729. Label on back of Exhibit No. 2 (was Exhibit No. 1)
730. Receipt from N. B. Stage December 30, 1862
731. Letter requesting signature verifications June 3, 1876
732. Authentication of signatures June 20, 1876
733. Exhibit No. 1 Loyalty letter from J. B. McPherson Nov. 5, 1862
734. Label on back of Exhibit No. 1 June 28 1876
735. return jurisdiction to Southern Claims Commission June 28, 1876
736. Cover of letter on page 735
737. Exhibit No. 19 Permission to ship household furniture April 8, 1863
738. Exhibit No. 19 Permission to sell or dispose of real estate and property April 8, 1863
739. Label on back of Exhibit No. 19 June 28 1876
740. Exhibit No. 16 Letter requesting receipts to Cossitt for material taken November 22, 1862
741. Label on back of Exhibit No. 16 June 28 1876
742. Label on back of Exhibit No. 18 June 28 1876
743. Exhibit No. 18 Loyalty letter from Cushman April 9, 1864
744. Exhibit No. 17 Letter of Introduction November 25, 1863
745. Label on back of Exhibit No. 17 June 28 1876
746. Label on back of Exhibit No. 15 June 28 1876
747. Exhibit No. 15 License to purchase cotton November 22, 1862
748. Label on back of Exhibit No. 35 June 28 1876
749. Exhibit No. 35 Receipt November 14, 1862
750. Papers from Commissary General to SCC July 3, 1876
751. Cover for letter from Commissary General
752. Cover letter for filing deposition from Cossitt on May 2nd 1876
753. Cover for affidavit covering long delay in filing
754. All evidence sent from SCC to QM General May 3, 1876
755. Letter from Franklin D. Cossitt moving claim to QM Genl and Commissary General Mar 10 1876
756. Identical to number 754.
757. Label on back of Exhibit No. 11 June 28 1876
758. Exhibit No. 11 Permission to sell real estate
759. Exhibits 1 to 19 inclusive
760. Blank SCC letterhead
761. Exhibits No. 20 to 34 inclusive
762. Request for signature verifications June 3, 1876
763. Letter from C. S. Hamilton Dec 26 1867
764. Cover of copy of letter of C. S. Hamilton
765. Exhibit No. 7 Provost Marshalls Office Oath of Allegiance November 19,

1862 (Copy)
766. Cover for copy of oath of allegiance taken Nov. 19 1862
767. List of items taken
768. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 7, 1862
769. Exhibit No. 33 Receipt November 11, 1862
770. Label on back of Exhibit No. 33 (was Exhibit 6)
771. Exhibit No. 23 Receipt November 7, 1862
772. Label on back of Exhibit No. 23 (was Exhibit 12)
773. Exhibit No. 26 Receipt November 7, 1862
774. Label on back of Exhibit No. 26 (was Exhibit 4)
775. Exhibit No. 28 Receipt November 6, 1862
776. Label on back of Exhibit No. 28 (was Exhibit 18)
777. Exhibit No. 19 Receipt November 17, 1862
778. Label on back of Exhibit No. 29 (was Exhibit 8)
779. Exhibit No. 30 Receipt November 7, 1862
780. Label on back of Exhibit No. 30 (was Exhibit 17)
781. Exhibit No. 29 Receipt November 17, 1862

Appendix C

References

C.1 Books

Army Life of an Illinois Soldier; Including a Day by Day Record of Sherman's March to the Sea. Letters and Diaries of the Late Charles W. Wills, Globe Printing Company, Washington, D.C., 1906.

[An excellent account of the life of a Soldier during the Civil War, who served as a Private and Sergeant in the 8th Illinois Infantry; as a Lieutenant and Battalion Adjutant 7th Illinois Cavalry; Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel 103rd Illinois Infantry. His units spent considerable amounts of time camped in La Grange Tennessee.]

The Southern Claims Commission. By Frank W. Klingberg. University of California *Publications in History*, Vol. L. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1955, pp. ix, 261. Map, appendices, bibliography, and index.)

[This is purported to be a thorough and scholarly analysis of Union support in the South and the actions of the Southern Claims Commission. The author believes that because of restrictions and extenuating circumstances, for every one who filed, at least four with "equal qualifications for unionism and property" did not. I was unable to locate a reasonably priced copy or a copy in any nearby library, but a digital copy is available to registrants on `familysearch.org`*.]*

Southern Loyalist in the Civil War: The Southern Claims Commission. A Composite Directory of Case Files Created by the U.S. Commissioner of Claims, 1871–1880, By Gary B. Mills, Baltimore Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994.

[This is the definitive reference to locate information about who filed claims and to determine which claims were barred, disallowed, or

allowed. Basically a good way to find a case number for further research. A copy is available in the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton, Chicago, IL 60610, `http://www.newberry.org`*]*

Portrait and Biographical Record of Cook and Dupage Counties, Illinois, Lake City Publishing Co. Chicago, IL, 1894, pp. 585–586.

[This is a collection of mostly accurate biographies of prominent citizens of Cook and Dupage Counties in 1895. It is one volume of a series produced through the years. It is freely available on several Internet sites.]

C.2 Articles and Theses

Good Union people: Enduring bonds between black and white Unionists in the Civil War and beyond (2016), James Schruefer, James Madison University, Masters Theses. 96

This thesis examines the alliance between white Southern unionists and former slaves and free blacks during and after the Civil War, based on Southern Claims Commission records. Freely available from `https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/master201019/96`

The Southern Claims Commission: A Postwar Agency in Operations, Frank Wysor Klingberg, The Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Sep. 1945, Vol. 32, No. 2(Sep 1945).

This earlier work by Klingberg reviewed the creation, operation, and conclusions of the Southern Claims Commission.

New freedon, New Law: The Southern Claims Commission and the Recognition of Slave Independent Will, Legal Standing, and Rights to Property in the Era of Reconstruction, F. Elias Boujaoude, Senior Thesis, Department of History, Columbia University in the City of New York

This thesis studies claims submitted by former slaves and the Southern Claims Commission's actions therein.

C.3 Access to Claims Documentation

The National Archives Building in Washington, DC (Archives 1), houses allowed, disallowed, and barred Southern Claim Commission case files.

An SCC case file may contain:

- Claimant's petition for payment
- Depositions of witnesses
- Summary reports of the special agent investigating the case

- Reports from Treasury Department officials who checked captured Confederate records for indications of disloyalty
- Final summary and recommendation of the commissioners
- Receipt of payment

Some files include additional documentary evidence such as:

- Letters of affidavit
- Reports by special agents
- Marriage and death certificates

However, not all files include all of these records.

C.3.1 Locating SCC Case Files

To locate a particular SCC case file, researchers should check Microfilm Publication M87, Records of the Commissioners of Claims. Roll 14 of this publication includes a consolidated index of claims. The index is arranged alphabetically by the petitioner's name and gives the state of residency, office number, report number, and final disposition.

The case files are found in different record groups, depending on the SCC's decision in the case. The index indicates which decision was issued for each case.

Barred Claims

Barred claims are claims that were not submitted to the SCC by the deadline (March 3, 1873) and so were not considered. They are indicated in M87 by the word "Barred."

Case files documenting these claims are found in Record Group 233, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, and have been reproduced as Microfiche Publication M1407, Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880, fiches 4273–4829. The case files are arranged alphabetically by the claimant's surname.

The case files are also available online through Ancestry.com (database title: "U.S., Southern Claims Commission, Disallowed and Barred Claims, 1871–1880") and Fold3.com (database title: "Southern Claims – Barred and Disallowed").

Disallowed Claims

Disallowed claims are claims that the U.S. House of Representatives denied, usually on the recommendation of the SCC. They are indicated in M87 as "Disallowed" or "Dismissed."

Case files documenting these claims are found in Record Group 233, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, and have been reproduced as Microfiche Publication M1407, Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880, fiches 5–4272. The case files are arranged by report number and thereunder by office number.

The case files are also available online through Ancestry.com (database title: "U.S., Southern Claims Commission, Disallowed and Barred Claims, 1871–1880") and Fold3.com (database title: "Southern Claims – Barred and Disallowed").

Disallowed/Barred Claims Transferred to the U.S. Court of Claims

Many Southern Unionists were dissatisfied with the claims process and with the SCC's decision in their cases. Their frustration eventually led Congress to pass the Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887. Under these acts, Congress could reconsider any of the claims previously handled by the SCC and transfer them to the U.S. Court of Claims for further review and recommendation.

The result is that some case files for disallowed and barred SCC claims are part of Record Group 123, Records of the U.S. Court of Claims, and Record Group 205, Records of the Court of Claims Section (Justice). They are indicated in M87 as "C. of C."

These case files can be found in two different series:

"Congressional Jurisdiction Case Files, 1884–1943" (Entry PI-58 22 in Record Group 123; National Archives Identifier 2734730) "Congressional Jurisdiction Case Files, 1884–1944" (Entry PI-47 45 in Record Group 205; National Archives Identifier 3432865) Both of these series are arranged by the U.S. Court of Claims case file number. Researchers should consult Microfilm Publication M2007, U.S. Court of Claims Docket Cards for Congressional Case Files, 1884–1937, to identify the case file number.

Please note that there can be numerous gaps in these series of records.

Allowed Claims

Allowed claims are claims that the U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve, usually on the SCC's recommendation, and for which the claimant received payment, in whole or in part, from the U.S. Treasury Department. They are indicated in M87 by the amount of money approved for payment.

These case files are found in the series, "Settled Case Files for Claims Approved by the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880" (Entry A1-732; National Archives Identifier 566157), which is part of Record Group 217, Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury. The case files are arranged alphabetically by state, thereunder by county, and thereunder by name of claimant.

Allowed claim files are available online through Fold3.com (database title: "Southern Claims").

Ancestry.com also features allowed claim files for Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, and Virginia (database title: "U.S., Southern Claims Commission Allowed Claims, 1871–1880"). These claim files were originally reproduced as microfilm:

Alabama – Microfilm Publication M2062

Georgia – Microfilm Publication M1658
Virginia – Microfilm Publication M2094
West Virginia – Microfilm Publication M1762

The above section is a part of `https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/southern-claims-commission` accessed on June 26, 2023.

C.3.2 Official Records

The Center for Legislative Archives holds the barred or disallowed case files of the Southern Claims Commission —that is, ones in which the Government made no payment —among the records of the U.S. House of Representatives. Claims were barred if they were submitted after the Commission's deadline. Disallowed claims were those claims the Commission denied.

Researchers interested in finding an individual claim should consult the Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives from 1871–1880, which is arranged alphabetically by the surname of those persons who filed claims before the Commission.

Only the barred and disallowed case files are in Record Group 233 – Records of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The case files for the allowed claims are in Record Group 217 – Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury. The administrative records and correspondence files of the Commission are in Record Group 56 – General Records of the Department of the Treasury.

Additionally, Congress passed the Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887, which provided for further adjudication of some disallowed cases by the Court of Claims. As a result, some of the disallowed case files can be found in Record Group 123 – Records of the United States Court of Claims.

Information about all claims may be obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration.

For assistance with barred and disallowed case files, you can email `legislative.archives@nara.gov`. For assistance with the allowed case files or records from the Court of Claims you can email `archives1reference@nara.gov`. And lastly, for assistance with general administration records of the Southern Claims Commission you can email `archives2reference@nara.gov`.